

Programme Specification

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| 1 | Awarding body | University of London | | | | |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Birkbeck College | | | | |
| 3 | Programme Title(s) | MA Public Histories | | | | |
| 4 | Programme Code(s) | TMAPUBHI_C | | | | |
| 5 | UCAS code | 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 FT; 2 years PT | | | | |
| 9 | Mode of Study | FT | x | PT | x | DL |
| 10 | Level of Award (FHEQ) | 7 | | | | |
| 11 | Other teaching depts or institution | Department of Art History University of East London | | | | |
| 12 | Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details | N/A | | | | |
| 13 | <u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u> | N/A | | | | |

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| 14 | Programme Rationale & Aims |
| | <p>The practise and importance of ‘public history’ has grown significantly in recent years, as academic historians become more aware of audiences beyond the academy, of the role of history in politics, of the need for their academic work to have an ‘impact’ beyond the academy, and of the growing interest in public and media interest in heritage and popular history. Public history training is seen as a valuable qualification for employment in the heritage, museum, and tourism sectors, in policy and research work, in education, and in media. In addition, more and more academic posts in the field of history ask for an interest or research specialization in public history. This programme MA Public Histories aims to provide students with valuable training to pursue work in the above mentioned sectors, to provide masters-level research training that would enable them to continue on to PhD study in History, and to provide them with the critical academic and intellectual skills necessary to assess and create public history projects and interventions. Drawing on the pre-existing research and impact strengths of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, and working with and adding value to the existing MA in Museums Studies at the Department of Art History, this MA aims to give students a sense of the wide-range of public history and the variety of roles played by historians in public and the importance and impact of public history in politics, culture, and society.</p> |

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| 15 | Entry Criteria |
| | <p>Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references. Admissions tutors may request writing samples or further interview where entry criteria are not met because of non-traditional education/experience background. Language requirements will be in compliance with college-wide regulations.</p> |

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| 16 | <p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Upon completion of this MA Programme</p> <p>Subject specific: students will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to apply knowledge and skills gained to employment in the media, tourism, heritage, museums, and policy sectors. • Understand the wide-ranging practise of public history and be able to comment critically upon existing projects, interventions, and practises. • Understand the key debates surrounding public history and the role of the public historian • Understand the way that history is used and disseminated in the media and on the internet , the way that museums and archives engage in public history, the role of public history in the heritage and tourism industries, the way in which policy makers engage with history, and the way in which historians have contributed to public policy debates, and the role that history plays in community development and community-based projects • Prepare written critiques of existing public history projects and interventions • Understand how to design a successful and critically engaged public history projects or interventions • Engage critically with current historiographical debates about Public History (this means evaluating a range of historical interpretations, as well as arguments about, and critiques of, historical research) • Gain an awareness of contemporary historical practice <p>Intellectual: students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulate their own arguments and conclusions about a range of issues • Extend analytical, evaluative, critical and reflective capacities • Identify, evaluate and critique existing scholarship in the field • Interpret and apply knowledge in an original manner • Detect problems, assess evidence and reach conclusions consistent with both • Develop a comprehensive understanding of the appropriate methodologies and techniques for study in their field • Work as part of a team in seminar discussions • Organise their own research methods and workload in order to manage time effectively • Improve transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, making oral presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with scholarly standards <p>Practical: students will gain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved level of IT skills and computer literacy the ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data • the ability to carry out documentary-based research • the ability to present findings both orally and in writing |
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| | <p>Personal and Social: students will gain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to work successfully in teams • the ability to work successfully on an independent basis • presentation skills • organisational skills • time-management skills |
| 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; in one-to-one tutorials as and when necessary; and in supervisory session in preparation for the dissertation. 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> |
| 18 | <p>Programme Description</p> <p>This programme consists of 4 modules and a final dissertation or project. It will have one core modules, 'Mastering Historical Research: Birkbeck Approaches', a second module chosen from a list of prescribed modules from: SSHC389S7 Public Histories in Practice, SSHC554S7 Archives and Memory, SSHC513S7, The Politics of the Past: Heritage in a Changing World, and two optional modules chosen from all HCA, History of Art, and Museum Cultures offerings.</p> <p>Public History Focused Options List:</p> <p>SHC389S7 Public Histories in Practice</p> <p>SSHC554S7 Archives and Memory</p> <p>SSHC513S7 The Politics of the Past: Heritage in a Changing World</p> <p>Indicative list of free choice HCA or History of Art option modules:</p> <p>ARVC076S7 Exhibiting the Body</p> <p>AHVM064S7 Curating Difficult Histories: Museums, Exhibitions, Art Activism</p> <p>ARVC225S7 Art Museums in a Global Age</p> <p>ARVC004S7 Museums, Memory and National Identity</p> <p>FDGD012S7 Queer Histories/Queer Cultures</p> <p>SSHC477S7 The Silk Road: Imagining Global Cultures in the Middle Ages</p> <p>SHC360S7 The Radical Sixties</p> <p>HICL135S7 Globalisation and the Rise of the Modern Consumer</p> <p>There is also core skills training (non-assessed) in preparation for the dissertation in the summer term; students receive 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> |

| 19 | Programme Structure | | | |
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| Full Time programme – 1 year | | | | |
| Year 1 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 7 | SSHC247S7 | Mastering Historical Research: Birkbeck Approaches | 30 | Compulsory |
| 7 | | Public History Focused Option | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | | Free Choice Option | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | | Free Choice Option | 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: Birkbeck Approaches | 30 | Compulsory |
| 7 | | Public History Focused Option OR Free Choice Option | 30 | Optional |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 7 | | Public History Focused Option OR Free Choice Option | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | | Public History Focused Option OR Free Choice Option | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | SSHC027D7 | Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory |
| Note: students must take at least one option from the prescribed list of public history options shown below: | | | | |
| 7 | SHC389S7 | Public Histories in Practice | 30 | Option |
| 7 | SSHC554S7 | Archives and Memory | 30 | Option |
| 7 | SSHC513S7 | The Politics of the Past: Heritage in a Changing World | 30 | Option |

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 | Programme Director | Dr Julia Laité |
| 21 | Start Date (<i>term/year</i>) | Autumn 2017 |
| 22 | Date approved by TQEC | December 2016 |
| 23 | Date approved by Academic Board | Spring 2017 |
| 24 | Date(s) updated/amended | April 2022 |