Year of entry: 2022/23

Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London						
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**						
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MRes History**						
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMRHISTO_C						
5	**UCAS code**	N/A						
6	**Home Department**	History, Classics and Archaeology						
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Cert						
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	2 year PT, 1 years FT						
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	**QAA Benchmark Group**	N/A						

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	This programme adds to the portfolio of degrees on offer within the department, allowing progression for those students who wish to follow a programme of historical research but cannot proceed to a PhD. This MRes in History aims to recruit students who wish to participate in a structured, taught postgraduate programme with an extended history research dissertation. It is meant to extend our masters provision by providing a unique degree, targeted to students who have successfully completed an MA and wish to do further research but are not suitable for acceptance onto a PhD programme. The MRes in History equips students with the advanced historical research skills necessary to complete an individual, large-scale research project. This is ideal for self-motivated and committed students. The programme consists of 2 core modules and a 30,000 word dissertation. The first module Planning Historical Research is meant to extend critical analytical skills and develop project management skills. The second module Practical Research Skills for Historians introduces practical skills and techniques of historical research through three main themes: locating and retrieving historical material; critiquing primary and secondary sources; and examining and organizing historical information.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	Potential students will usually have achieved a good honours degree (2.1 or above) in both their BA and their MA; at least one of these degrees should be in History. These criteria

	are suggested in order for the degree to be seen and marketed as a progression from an MA. Students who do not achieve these criteria may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential. Applications for this programme should include a 500 word dissertation proposal.

16	**Learning Outcomes**

	Students completing the MRes History will:
	• Display mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and be able to engage with current debates about their subject matter
	• Extend analytical, evaluative, critical and reflective capacities by
	  ○ Demonstrating a critical awareness of the insights and limitations of different source materials
	  ○ Evaluating and critiquing existing scholarship in the field
	  ○ Being able to interpret and apply knowledge in an original manner
	• Develop a comprehensive understanding of the appropriate methodologies and techniques for study in their field
	• Communicate more effectively newly acquired knowledge and understanding in large and small group discussions
	• Improve transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with scholarly standards, working independently and in groups, managing their time effectively and using information technology relevant to their areas of study

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Most modules will be delivered through a seminar lasting two hours. The seminars will act as a discussion forum and sessions are organised to simulate student interaction; the tutors will be moderators of the discussion, not the facilitators. Teaching is varied and interactive, including short lectures, group work, discussion, student presentations and field studies (to archives). Dissertation supervision will be in the form of one-to-one tutorials. The tutor will provide feedback where appropriate relating to communication, research, performance, knowledge. The course includes components that are assessed and not assessed. The Pass/Fail components are particularly geared towards promoting project management skills: defining and planning their literature review in Term 1 (and planning the dissertation in Term 2), meeting deadlines and recording and reflecting on outcomes. These assignments enable students to learn important planning skills for a large piece of research. The assessed components include a literature view for Planning Historical Research (core module 1) and a detailed dissertation proposal for Practical Research Skills for Historians (core module 2). The literature review is key to the student placing their work within a larger historical framework. The detailed proposal will develop planning skills, but also

	ascertain that student has considered the historiography, sources, methodologies and/or theories pertaining to their research. Teaching, learning and assessment modes are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports, and peer monitoring. Students consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by email but also in person. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed coursebook for each module gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organization and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, writing techniques are provided to students during the year. The department works closely with the college Disability Office and the school's Student Learning Support Officer to enable all students to participate fully in their course.

18	**Programme Description**
	The programme consists of 3 components: two core modules of 30 credits each at level 7 and a 30,000 word dissertation worth 120 credits.

19 **Programme Structure**

Full Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
7	SSHC342S7	Planning Historical Research	30	Core
7	SSHC399S7	The Historian's Craft (MRes)	30	Core
7	SSHC341Q7	MRes Dissertation	120	Core

Part Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
7	SSHC399S7	The Historian's Craft (MRes)	30	Core
7	SSHC342S7	Planning Historical Research	30	Core

Year 2

7	SSHC341Q7	MRes Dissertation	120	Core

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**	Carmen Mangion
21	**Start Date** ***(term/year)***	October 2014
22	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2014
23	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2014
24	**Date(s) updated/amended**	Autumn 2016

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