

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London							
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College							
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Gender, Sexuality and Society							
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSG TMSG	TMSGNSIP_C (on-campus study) TMSGNSMX_C (flexible study) TMSGNSON_C (online study) TMSGNSSJ_C (January start)						
	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 full-time; 2 years part-time							
9	Mode of Study	FT	х	PT	х	DL-FT	х	DL-PT	Х
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 provides students with a structured masters programme to explore gender and sexuality in contemporary society. 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 gender and sexuality from social science (and interdisciplinary) perspectives at level 7. Teaching is research-led.

Second-class honours degree (usually) in a social science subject and references

16 Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific

- 1. an awareness of theoretical issues at stake gender and sexuality scholarship in the social sciences
- 2. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of gender and sexuality in the social sciences
- 3. an understanding of interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary debates in gender and sexuality studies
- 4. to understand core debates within specific subject fields



Intellectual

- 5. the ability to carry out effective and critical evaluations of information, data and interpretations
- 6. the use of critical reasoning
- 7. the development of analytical skills
- 8. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information
- 9. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them Practical
- 10. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with word processing and internet, and where appropriate with databases and spreadsheets
- 11. ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data
- 12. to carry out documentary-based research
- 13. to present findings both orally and in writing

Personal and Social

- 14. the ability to work successfully in teams
- 15. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis
- 16. to develop presentation skills
- 17. to develop organisational skills
- 18. to master time-management

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

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 the social sciences. Options module teaching is done primarily via seminar group, with occasional lectures; and in one-to-one tutorials as and when necessary. A core module – Theorising Gender – has a component lecture series. The dissertation module includes research training workshops. Where appropriate, use is made of on-line resources including Moodle.

Most options are delivered in-person, some are delivered both in-person and online, and some online only. There is sufficient online provision to allow students to complete their degrees with no in-person modules. Those students taking the online route through the programme, or who select one or more of the online modules as part of their studies, will be taught through a mixture of online seminars, live and recorded lecture material, and a range of additional online resources.

Assessment is via written work, with a different essay (or equivalent) for each module. The dissertation module is composed 15% coursework related to research skills and literature review and 85% for the dissertation itself.



¹⁸ Programme Description

The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the core module 'Theorising Gender' 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). At least two of these options must be taken from a designated MSc Gender, Sexuality and Society options list. There is also a dissertation module which incorporates skills training. 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.

Indicative list of designated option modules:

SSGE079S7 Contesting Culture

FDRE012S7 Culture, Community, Identity
FDLL003S7 Education, Power and Resistances

LALA096S7 Equality and the Law FDDV002S7 Gender and Development

LADD013S7 Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights

Note: Not all options are available as online modules – however each year students will have a will have a menu of more than three online option modules in HCA and other departments, ensuring that a online path through the degree is available.

Options planned to run online 2022/3:

FDGD012S7 Queer Histories, Queer Cultures

SSHC543S7 Antisemitism, Holocaust, Colonialism, Gender: Connecting the Conversation HICL195S7 The Science of Progress? Darwin, Evolution and the Making of Modernity

SSHC458S7 Me, Myself and I: Identity and the Self in Europe

LACN019S7 Regulating Sex and Sexuality

LADD027S7 Gender, Sexuality and Criminal Justice

Further cross-listed modules from other departments are expected to be available.

¹⁹ Programme Structure

Full Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
7	FDGD009S7	Theorising Gender	30	Compulsory
7		Option 1	30	Optional
7		Option 2	30	Optional
7		Option 3	30	Optional
7	FDGD008D7	Dissertation	60	Compulsory

Part Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
7	FDGD009S7	Theorising Gender	30	Compulsory



7		Option 1	30	Optional		
Year 2	Year 2					
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status		
7		Option 2	30	Optional		
7		Option 3	30	Optional		
7	FDGD008D7	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	Programme Director	Dr Matt Cook
21	Start Date (term/year)	Prior to 2009
22	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2009
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2009
24	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2022