

### Programme details

<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London
<b>Teaching institution</b>	Goldsmiths, University of London
<b>Programme Title</b>	MPhil/PhD in Translation
<b>Programme code</b>	
<b>Exit awards</b>	(For PhD) MPhil in Translation (For PhD) MPhil in Translation by Practice
<b>Modes of study</b>	Full-time or Part-time
<b>Duration of study (years)</b>	<p><u>Full-time study</u>            Minimum period: 2 years            Expected period: 3 years            Maximum period: 4 years</p> <p><u>Part-time study</u>            Minimum period: 4 years            Expected period: 6 years            Maximum period: 8 years</p>
<b>Start date/s</b>	Months of entry: Autumn term (as standard) Spring term (on request) Summer term (on request)
<b>Level of award (FHEQ)</b>	Level 8 (PhD)
<b>Home Department</b>	English and Comparative Literature
<b>Other Departments (where applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Sarah Maitland
<b>Professional accreditation (where applicable)</b>	N/A

#### **Entry Criteria**

Academic: Applicants should normally possess at least a first degree (normally of upper second class honours standard or above) or equivalent.  
Applicants should also normally have (or expect to be awarded) a taught Masters in a relevant subject area.

Where an applicant possesses non-standard qualifications or equivalent experience, these will be considered.

Language: Applicants whose first language is not English should normally have attained a score of at least 7.0 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or equivalent test, a 7.0 score in the writing element.

Prior education in Translation Studies: No prior qualification in Translation Studies is required for admission to the programme, but relevant equivalent experience in contexts of translation, interculturality and language transfer must be demonstrated through the personal statement.

#### **Learning outcomes**

- On completion of the PhD, candidates should be able to demonstrate:

that they are competent as an independent researcher in their discipline and capable of continuing to undertake research at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new Ideas, techniques or approaches. As part of this, they should have gained:

- An ability to evaluate critically the existing literature relevant to their thesis topic
- An ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of significant new knowledge and / or understanding
- An ability to relate theory and concepts to evidence in a systematic way and to draw appropriate conclusions based on evidence
- An understanding of the place of the student's research in the context of the relevant field of study
- Awareness of the research integrity and any relevant ethical and professional considerations
- Effective management of a project, from identifying research questions, planning interim milestones and timescale, prioritising activities, through to timely completion
- They should also be able to demonstrate that they can
  - Write clearly and in a style appropriate to the purpose and audience
  - Construct coherent arguments and articulate and defend ideas clearly to a range of audiences, through a variety of techniques
  - Manage their training needs, both in relation to their programme and their future career development

### **Programme description**

The programme will comprise:

- i) An independent research project that makes an original contribution to knowledge, enshrined in the form of a written thesis

Supervisors will be allocated on the basis of staff subject expertise, in addition to capacity and experience.

- ii) Research training:

#### Discipline-specific skills

Many Departments require PhD students to undertake subject-specific skills training courses, in addition to the more informal learning that occurs through supervision. Where such courses are mandatory, an annex setting out the courses and any associated requirements and credit bearing details should be attached to this programme specification.

Students who have not already undertaken an MA in Translation at Goldsmiths, University of London, or elsewhere, may be encouraged, for example, to audit the MA in Translation 'Translation Theory and Practice' and 'Dissertation' modules in the Autumn and Spring terms. Students' participation on these modules would not be assessed but would ensure that the necessary skills for further research and translation practice have been acquired.

#### Generic / transferable skills

At the start of their programme, students will complete a Learning Needs Assessment to determine what further training would be beneficial to their studies and ongoing career development. This must be discussed and approved with the main supervisor.

## Progression

Students will initially be registered on the programme of MPhil/PhD in Translation, with progress to PhD status being subject to assessment of research ability. Students will be subject to an annual review of progress, the details of which are summarised in the *Goldsmiths Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research and Training*.

In year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students), this review will take the form of a Transfer of Registration assessment. The possible outcomes of this assessment are as follows:

- i) transfer to PhD status;
- ii) an agreed plan of remedial action, leading to a second and final upgrade attempt, to an agreed timescale, normally within three months of the original interview (or six months if studying on a part-time basis). This is the expected outcome if transfer is not agreed at the first attempt.
- iii. recommendation that the candidate prepare for a submission for the degree of MPhil, if and when their work is likely to fit the criteria for this degree; or
- iv. recommendation for termination of registration

## Final Assessment

Candidates will be required to submit a written thesis, the assessment of which will be in the form of a *viva voce* examination, conducted by two independent examiners. Details of the procedure, along with the format required for theses, can be found in the *Guidelines for the Research Degree Examination Process* and the *Research Student Essential Examination Information*.

### Criteria for the award of the degree:

The thesis shall:

- be what might reasonably be expected after three or at most four years of full-time study. If a student is studying on a part-time basis, the scope of the thesis shall be what might reasonably be expected after six or at most eight years of study.
- consist of the candidate's own account of his/her investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree;

[The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.]

- form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power;
- be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument;

[A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable for submission as a traditional PhD thesis. Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the

candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included in the thesis. The published papers themselves may not be included in the body of the thesis, but may be adapted to form an integral part of the thesis and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis. Publications derived from the work in the thesis may be bound as supplementary material at the back of the thesis.]

- give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, include discussion on those findings and indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study of the subject; and, in so doing, demonstrate a deep and synoptic understanding of the field of study, (the candidate being able to place the thesis in a wider context), objectivity and the capacity for judgment in complex situations and autonomous work in that field;
- be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory. On an exceptional basis, permission may be granted for a thesis in the field of foreign literature to be written in the language of study; in such cases the thesis shall additionally include a submission of between 10,000 and 20,000 words which shall be written in English and shall summarise the main arguments of the thesis;
- not exceed 100,000 words; [a Department may prescribe a lower number for practice-based research in certain subject areas, which shall be detailed in Annex A;

[Note: the bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.]

- include a full bibliography and references;
- demonstrate research skills relevant to the thesis being presented;
- be of a standard to merit publication in whole or in part or in a revised form (for example, as a monograph or as a number of articles in learned journals).

### **Methods of enhancing Quality and Standards**

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules must be formally approved against national standards. The quality of MPhil/PhD programmes is monitored chiefly through regular reviewing of the quality and progress of all students' work, and of the quality and continuity of their supervision. The main vehicle for this monitoring is the Annual Progress Review (APR). The APR is administered by the Graduate School, which requires both students and supervisors to report formally on students' work and progress against known standards of academic/creative quality and benchmarks of progression towards and through the upgrading process and final submission. In the Department of English & Comparative Literature, the APR also normally involves an annual interview at which the Department's Director of Postgraduate Research and the Chair of the Research Committee meet with each student and their supervisor(s), to monitor progress, supervision arrangements, and any research or training needs that students might have or develop. The Director of Postgraduate Research reports on the findings of the APR process to the Department's Research Committee, which also functions as the Department's PGR Committee.

The Director of Postgraduate Research also provides interim reports on student progress to Research Committee in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and liaises closely with the Graduate School about individual students and about larger matters concerning MPhil/PhD programmes and the College's processes for students, programmes and the postgraduate research environment. The Chair of Research Committee reports on a termly basis to Departmental Board. Students can raise any concerns about their work or about their supervision via the APR process, or at any time via the Department's Director of Postgraduate Research, or via the Graduate School, as appropriate to the nature of their concern.