Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA History
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: MA History

Programme Name: MA History

Total credit value for programme: 180 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Postgraduate Certificate in History

Postgraduate Diploma in History

Duration of Programme: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100302) History

QAA Benchmark Group Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: October 2022

Home Department: History

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

MA History is innovative, stimulating, diverse and challenging, with a focus on historical theory and methods, and European modern and early modern history including non-traditional military history, queer history and Black British History. The programme is thematic and interdisciplinary. You develop specific subject interests through a range of option courses and the dissertation.

Your learning will be supported by peers and one-to-one sessions with tutors and supervisors. You will undertake an independent research dissertation on a theme of personal interest. You will have the opportunity to organize and present your work at an internal departmental postgraduate conference alongside students from other MA programmes.

You will have the opportunity to study module options offered by other institutions part of the University of London.

Programme entry requirements

Students should normally have, or expect to gain, a first degree of at least upper second class standard in history or another appropriate subject. Applicants who are not graduates, or who have a degree in an unrelated field, or any other candidates may be subject to a qualifying examination in the form of essay work. Admission is normally by interview. Non-native speakers normally possess IELTS of 6.5, or equivalent.

Programme learning outcomes

The MA History explores current approaches to historical research and interdisciplinary approaches to historical enquiry and examination of a broad variety of source material. The programme focuses on early modern and modern global history.

The programme aims to:

- examine historiography and current historical research;
- develop students' ability to locate, use, and critically reflect upon, a variety of source material for historical enquiry;
- develop students' ability to think systematically and creatively about developments in the field of history;
- enhance students' critical and analytical skills;
- enhance students' ability to develop and sustain original arguments; encourage students' self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by practising skills of research, evaluation, and written and oral communication;
- facilitate a learning environment that offers students an appropriate foundation for further scholarly research., and for careers in teaching, archives, museums and research in private and public sector organisations.

What you will be expected to achieve

Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Certificate in History will demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	An in-depth knowledge and understanding of historical and critical debate	All modules
A2	A detailed understanding of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches to History	All modules
A3	An in-depth understanding of the possibilities and limitations of using a broad variety of source material for historical analysis	All modules
A4	A thorough knowledge of current debates about the further development of History	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Interpret a broad variety of source material in the context of historical enquiry	All modules
B2	Develop and sustain original arguments that are informed by, but not wholly dependent on, authorities in the field of History	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Take a critical and measured approach to historical source material and historiography	All modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Interpret a broad variety of sources closely and critically	All modules
D2	Give oral presentations	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D3	Write creative and critical historical analysis	All modules
D4	Assess evidence critically	All modules
D5	Integrate multiple and diverse forms of evidence	All modules
D6	Formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments informed by standards of scholarly accuracy	All modules

Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Diploma in History, in addition to the learning outcomes above, will demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	An in-depth understanding of the possibilities and limitations of using a broad variety of source material for historical analysis across a variety of historical themes	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Develop and sustain original arguments that are informed by, but not wholly dependent on, authorities in the field of History across a variety of historical themes	All modules

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Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	AS ABOVE	All modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments informed by standards of scholarly accuracy across a variety of historical themes	All modules

Students who successfully complete the MA History, will have demonstrated achievement of all of the above outcomes and, in addition, will have/be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	A systematic understanding of knowledge, and critical awareness of current problems and /or new insights much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline	All modules
A2	A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Apply the methods and theories of an interdisciplinary approach to History in their own research	All modules
B2	Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in History	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Creatively undertake historical research by applying innovative approaches	All modules
C2	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems	All modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Carry out independent research	All modules
D2	Identify and address suitable topics for extended, reflective independent study	All modules
D3	Ability to manage complexity and to communicate complex ideas	All modules
D4	Organise and present a paper at an academic workshop	All modules, especially the dissertation as the process of writing includes participating in organising, and presenting at, the Department's MA dissertation conference

Mode of study

The programme aims to create an intellectually stimulating environment, which embraces intellectual diversity, and encourages and supports the independence, creativity, and confidence. Students are encouraged to test all transferable skills in the formative assessments, which are intended to allow students to familiarise themselves with the intellectual requirements of the programme and prepare them for the summative assessments.

COMPULSORY MODULES

1. Explorations & Debates investigates the ways historians have conceptualised and contested historical practice in the modern and early modern periods. It considers the relationship between History and other disciplines, as well as historians' ways of using a range of sources for historical enquiry. Presentations and discussions in the seminars as well as the writing of essays provide students with the opportunity to investigate the key theoretical and conceptual questions in a variety of ways.
2. The Research Skills Module trains students in the use and interpretation of a wide range of source material: textual, oral, visual and material. The module includes non-

classroom-based workshops, e.g. for ICT skills, and visits to museums, galleries, and archives where students will be addressed by specialists in these fields. Student's understanding will be tested through a series of preparatory tasks for class discussion and assessed essays.

A formative student-run dissertation conference provides students with experience of conference organisation and presentation of conference papers, and to provide them with feedback on their research projects from a variety of Departmental staff and classmates across programmes.

OPTIONAL MODULES

The Optional modules encompass a diverse regional, conceptual and methodological range to investigate religious, cultural and political history in both the Western and non-Western world from the fifteenth century to the present. All options are based on the tutors' current research.

Students are also able to attend the Departmental research seminar series.

These modules together prepare students to carry out their own research projects and write their dissertations, to test all transferable skills in the formative assessments, which are intended to allow students to familiarise themselves with the intellectual requirements of the programme and prepare them for the summative assessments.

Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Exceptional work of potentially publishable quality, showing originality and based on extensive research and independent thought. Represents the achievement of the learning outcomes to an outstanding level.
70-79%	Distinction	Excellent work. In addition to the qualities expected at lower levels, shows independence of thought and judgement in relation to primary and secondary material and an ability to develop original ideas on a particular topic. Has a high level of analytical and critical skills. Able to put the topic in its regional context and to draw comparisons between places, periods and subjects. Imaginative and well- rounded work. Shows readiness to adopt new approaches and techniques. Represents the achievement of the learning outcomes to an excellent level.

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
60-69%	Merit	Good work, showing analytical and critical abilities, a wide knowledge of the topic under discussion, a sound grasp of the nature of the sources and of the subject's historiography. High standard of writing and presentation and a readiness, in essays and dissertations, to make use of maps, illustrations, graphs and tables, where appropriate, to back up the main argument. Represents the achievements of the learning outcomes to a good level.
50-59%	Pass	Satisfactory work, showing an ability to analyse the main issues and support the analysis with adequate knowledge; able to write to the point; shows an awareness of the nature of the sources and historiography; some faults in English style, acceptable in examinations but not in essays and dissertations. Represents the achievement of the learning outcomes to a threshold level.
30-49%	Fail	Work based on inadequate knowledge and showing a failure to grasp the main issues and to tackle the problems under discussion; limited powers of analysis and argument. represents an overall failure to achieve the learning outcomes
10-29%	Bad fail	Scrappy and totally inadequate work. Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment

Programme structure

The programme requires students to take two compulsory modules: Explorations & Debates in History (one term, 30 credits) and Research Skills (one term, 30 credits), Two Option Modules (to a value of 60 credits, one term each), and a research dissertation (60 credits).

Explorations & Debates in History consists of weekly seminars for all students and additional, separate tutorials for each student. The module explores a range of interdisciplinary approaches to History and the influences of leading historical movements in the twentieth century through the analysis of key texts.

The Research Skills Module aims to give students understanding and practical experience in the range and use of source material and appropriate research methods. Textual, visual, material and oral sources will be critically addressed through classroom discussion and field visits. A further, and important, objective of this module is to prepare students for the research to be undertaken in order to complete the dissertation. Research Skills consists of weekly seminars/field trips for all students.

The thematic Option Modules introduce students to current, in-depth research on a range of topics in the early modern and modern periods. The modules allow students to study the impact and application of the theoretical knowledge they acquire in the Explorations & Debates and Research Skills modules. Option Modules vary from year to year depending on staff research commitments, and consist of weekly seminars for all students and additional, separate tutorials for each student. Students choose two Options which will encompass a diverse regional, periodic, conceptual and methodological range. Alternatively one option may be chosen from those offered by the other University of London Colleges which participate in the intercollegiate scheme, or an appropriate module from another Goldsmiths Department. If students choose a 15 credits intercollegiate Option Module, the required 30 credits can be obtained by undertaking a 15 credits Independent Study Project.

All students must have passed modules to the value of 90 credits before proceeding to the dissertation.

Full-time mode

Full-time students take Explorations & Debates in History, Research Skills Module and one Option Module in the first term; in the second term they take one Option Module and begin work on their dissertation; in the third term they participate in the dissertation conference and over the summer they continue and complete the dissertation.

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Explorations and Debates in History	HT71126C	30	7	Compulsory	1
Research Skills	HT71110E	30	7	Compulsory	1
Optional Modules to the value of 60 CATS from a list available annually. One Option may be chosen from another Goldsmiths Department or University of London College which participates in the	N/A	60	7	Optional	1-2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
intercollegiate scheme (If students choose a 15 credits intercollegiate Option Module, the required 30 credits can be obtained by undertaking a 15 credits Independent Study Project)					
Dissertation	HT71063C	60	7	Compulsory	2-3

Part-time mode

Part-time students take Explorations & Debates in History in the first term of Year 1 and one Option in either the first or second term. They will normally be expected to have passed these modules before proceeding to the final year. In Year 2 they take Research Skills in the first term, Option 2 in either the first or second term when they also begin work on the dissertation. In term 3 they participate in the dissertation workshop and in term 3 and over the summer, they continue and complete the dissertation.

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Explorations and Debates in History	HT71126C	30	7	Compulsory	1
Optional Module to the value of 30 CATS from a list available annually. One Option may be chosen from another Goldsmiths Department or University of London College which participates in the intercollegiate scheme (If students choose a 15 credits intercollegiate Option Module, the required 30 credits can be obtained by undertaking a 15 credits Independent Study Project)	N/A	30	7	Optional	1 or 2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Research Skills	HT71110E	30	7	Compulsory	1
Optional Module to the value of 30 CATS from a list available annually. One Option may be chosen from another Goldsmiths Department or University of London College which participates in the intercollegiate scheme (If students choose a 15 credits intercollegiate Option Module, the required 30 credits can be obtained by undertaking a 15 credits Independent Study Project)	N/A	30	7	Optional	1 or 2
Dissertation	HT71063C	60	7	Compulsory	2-3

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacies works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

Not available for this degree.

Employability and potential career opportunities

The MA develops a range of transferable skills which are relevant to a range of careers and areas of employment. These include advanced research and analytical expertise; increased independence of thought; the ability to marshal, evaluate and communicate, in written and oral form, complex information and ideas; project management; teamwork and workshop organisation.

Students who complete the MA programme are successful in all types of careers which are available to humanities students, ranging from the media to the law to the public sector. Students choose to study for this degree in London because of the wide range of research institutions and facilities that are available.

Graduate students from the Department have continued to careers in museums and galleries, archives, journalism, charities, university and arts administration, local government and teaching, as well as doctoral research.

Programme-specific requirements

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section "How the programme is structured" above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Modules are defined as:

- "Optional" – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- "Compulsory" – which must be taken as part of the degree

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student's mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

> Distinction – 70%+
> Merit – 60-69%
> Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the [calculation of the final classification](#) is on our website.

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the "What you will be expected to achieve" section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the [Goldsmiths Academic Manual](#).

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/

Specific programme costs

None.