

Programme Title: BA (Hons) History and Politics with a Year Abroad



## Programme Specification (UG)

|                                             |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Awarding body / institution:                | Queen Mary University of London                   |
| Teaching institution:                       | Queen Mary University of London                   |
| Name of final award and programme title:    | BA (Hons) History and Politics with a Year Abroad |
| Name of interim award(s):                   |                                                   |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | Four Years                                        |
| QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):         | LV20                                              |
| QAA Benchmark Group:                        |                                                   |
| FHEQ Level of Award :                       | Level 6                                           |
| Programme accredited by:                    |                                                   |
| Date Programme Specification approved:      |                                                   |
| Responsible School / Institute:             | School of History                                 |

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Politics and International Relations

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

This degree is jointly taught by the Schools of History and Politics, and reflects the close links between the two schools and their subject areas. It provides an opportunity to understand the modern world by studying the evolution of political ideas and institutions alongside the historical development of the major powers. Students on the programme will embark on exchange programmes with one of our internationally renowned partners. These include, the Humboldt University in Berlin, University of California, or The University of Melbourne, to give but a few examples. In these destinations students will undertake a full year of studies. While the majority of the modules will be in History, they would also be able to take some modules in other fields, broadening their horizons and widening their knowledge of their host country.

### Aims of the programme

The programme will build on the LV21 History and Politics as delivered by the School of History and School of Politics at Queen Mary, University of London. It aims:

- to provide students with a thorough grounding of the key aspects of history, particularly modern and contemporary history;
- to provide students with an understanding of modern political systems and of key issues in international relations;

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- to introduce students to, and encourage them to employ a range of methodological approaches in both History and Politics, ensuring that they acquire knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of theory and analysis;

- to develop a capacity to think critically about events, ideas and institutions;

- to expose students to political, cultural, social and economic themes as appropriate drawn from the School's strengths in British, European, North American and Islamic history;

- to provide the opportunity for students to specialise in areas of history and of politics;

- to encourage and support students to design their own coherent pathway of study drawing from units offered both within both Schools and and by other Schools of History and Politics within the University , allowing students to pursue multidisciplinary interests.

- to equip students with the generic and transferable skills as defined in the School of History Benchmarks including self direction, independence of mind, the ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information, structure, coherence, clarity and fluency of both oral and written expression, intellectual integrity.

**What will you be expected to achieve?**

Please refer to the learning outcomes.

**Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

| Academic Content: |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A 1               | To demonstrate understanding of major political, cultural and social systems in modern history.  |
| A 2               | To develop an awareness of continuity and change over an extended time-span.                     |
| A 3               | To formulate a grasp of the nature of politics and the operation of different political systems. |
| A 4               | To demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and methods employed in the study of politics.   |

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|     |                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A 5 | To develop an understanding of the vocabulary of political debate.                                                                                             |
| A 6 | To show awareness of historiographic argument.                                                                                                                 |
| A 7 | To demonstrate an understanding of the significance of material gathered within wider disciplines and an ability to evaluate the significance of the material. |
| A 8 | To develop a comparative perspective on culture, society and politics.                                                                                         |

| Disciplinary Skills - able to: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B 1                            | Demonstrate familiarity with relevant bibliographic skills and, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of scholarly conventions. In addition to be able to follow such conventions consistently and accurately in all written work. |
| B 2                            | Demonstrate research skills, including the gathering of relevant research materials. In addition, be able to demonstrate an awareness of this research within the wider discipline and evaluate the significance of research.                          |
| B 3                            | Communicate effectively, both orally and in written assignments and have developed a mature writing style and clear and effective style of oral presentation.                                                                                          |
| B 4                            | Present ideas and arguments confidently.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| B 5                            | Demonstrate the ability to work independently and to manage time effectively and carry projects through to a successful conclusion.                                                                                                                    |
| B 6                            | Present written work clearly and effectively, drawing on information technology as appropriate and be confident in evaluating ICT sources of information and be effective in using ICT for presentation purposes.                                      |
| B 7                            | Engage critically with politics and political phenomena.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| B 8                            | Communicate with international peers and faculty.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Attributes: |                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C 1         | Will have acquired a robust and detailed knowledge of at least one other historical period and its primary sources.                       |
| C 2         | Able to appreciate the need to identify continuity and change and an ability to analyse elements of continuity and change.                |
| C 3         | Will have an awareness of the significance of historical research within the wider discipline and evaluated the significance of research. |
| C 4         | Will have developed a mature writing style and a clear and effective style of oral presentation.                                          |
| C 5         | Will be able to present written work clearly and effectively, drawing on information technology as appropriate.                           |
| C 6         | Will have developed confidence in presenting arguments and ideas.                                                                         |
| C 7         | Will have gained the confidence to evaluate ICT sources of information and been effective in using ICT for presentation purposes.         |

## How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the School's Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy. The broad aims of this strategy are:

- to foster a sense of community amongst students and staff in the pursuit of teaching and learning history and politics;
- to promote the relationship between staff research, teaching and student learning;
- to provide a flexible curriculum, supported by the intercollegiate system of the University of London which maximizes students' choice;
- to expose students to a diverse set of approaches to the study of history and of politics and to a number of specialisms including interdisciplinary collaboration;
- to encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and to develop qualities of self-discipline and self-direction;
- to inspire intellectual independence in students;
- to employ a variety of assessment methods and emphasize progression;
- to prepare graduates for training and/or employment, or further academic study, through the acquisition of transferable skills;

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Field Trips
- Individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- Individual feedback on written work including examinations

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed bibliographies, providing guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials, in libraries, in specified books or module packs
- The provision of key visual material
- Appropriate assessment exercises with each module
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Encouraging students to reflect on historical methods through dedicated modules
- Review of individual student progress in conjunction with advisers

The study abroad programme will consolidate the above, while enabling students to further explore in-depth key issues in history and politics, through the provision of modules in a carefully selected elite partner university.

## How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme, closely related to the desired learning outcomes of each module within the programme.

Forms of assessment include:

- Essays (from 2,000 to 5,000 words as appropriate)
- Unseen examinations
- Dissertations (10,000 words)
- Gobbet work
- Project work
- Translation and editing exercises
- Book reviews
- Literature reviews

Copies of the full Teaching and Learning Strategy including specific practices relating to teaching, learning and assessment can be obtained from the School of History.

## How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

### Year 1

Students select modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits from a range of thematic and skills based modules at level 4 with 60 credits coming from each School. Within the School of History students must choose in the following way:

### Level 4:

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### In the School of History:

Compulsory module: HST4621A History in Practice (15 credits)

Plus, EITHER HST4321A Unravelling Britain: British History since 1801 (15 credits) OR HST4622A Global Encounters: Conquest and Culture in World History (15 credits)

And 30 credits from other HST4\*\*\*B modules (15 credits each)

### In the School of Politics :

Compulsory module: POL110 Thinking Politically: Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Ideologies (30 credits)

Plus 30 elective SPIR level 4 credits needed from POL105 Political Analysis (30 credits), POL106 Introduction to International Relations (30 credits), POL1XX Politics in Action (15 credits, Sem A), POL108 Background to British Politics (15 credits, Semester B) OR POL109 Global Histories (15 credits, Sem B)

To successfully progress from Year 1 to Year 2 students must pass a minimum of 90 credits, and achieve an average mark of 40.0 or higher across all the credits taken.

### Year 2

Students take level 5 modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits. 60 credits will come from History and 60 credits will come from Politics. Students will receive guidance of their personal advisers to ensure a balance of Politics and History courses.

Students are able to choose from a wide range of modules offered by the Schools, and other Politics and History Schools within the University (Group 1 or Group 2 modules as defined by the University of London School of History).

The flexibility of the system enables students to design their own coherent pathway of study in accordance with their developing intellectual interests.

Students must take ONE of the following:

POL263 Modern Political Thought 1 (with the School of Politics) (15 credits)

or

HST5313 History of Modern Political Thought (with the School of History) (15 credits)

or

HST5614 History of Political Thought (with the School of History) (30 credits)

Within the School of Politics students can select up to 60 credit module from the School's Level 5 provision.

Within the School of History students select 60 credits from the School's Level 5 provision, which must include the compulsory module HST5901 History Research Project (15 credits).

To successfully progress from Year 2 to the year abroad students must pass a minimum of 90 credits in Year 2, and have passed a minimum of 195 credits in total from Year 1 and Year 2, and achieve an average mark of 60.0 or higher across all the credits taken. NB the average mark of 60.0 is weighted rather than being a year 2 average (weighted 1-3 for years 1 and 2).

### Year 3

Students will embark on a year abroad to a partner university with a strong emphasis on History and Politics. There they will select modules of at least 60 ECTS (120 QM credits). Students would be encouraged to study the local language, but their studies would not depend on it, as a comprehensive range of relevant modules would be delivered in English. The students will choose their modules in consultation with their QM advisors and the international exchange officer, assuring the modules would maximize their academic trajectory.

To successfully progress from Year 3 to the final year students must take 120 credits while abroad and pass 105 with an average mark of 40.0 (not weighted, in that case). If students fail to meet this requirement they still progress into the final year but are moved back to the non-study abroad version.

### Year 4

Students take Level 6 modules to the value of 120 credits, split either 60/60, or 45/75 or 75/45 between modules in the Schools of History and Politics respectively.

Students must take EITHER 60 credits from a History Special Subject (comprising either a 30 credit QMUL School of History Special Subject with linked 30 credit HST6700 History Research Dissertation, or as a 60 credit Special Subject, including a dissertation, offered by another college within the University of London) OR a 45 credit POL318 Dissertation in Politics / International Relations.

All module choices are made with the guidance of the student's personal advisers in both Schools.

### Requirements for Award:

To be eligible for your degree, you must pass a minimum of 315 credits in total, including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6.

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**Academic Year of Study**     FT - Year 1

| Module Title                                                            | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| History in Practice                                                     | HST4621A    | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1      |
| Thinking Politically: Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Ideologies | POL110      | 30      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Level 4 HST elective modules                                            | Various     | 45      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 or 2 |
| Background to British Politics                                          | POL108      | 15      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2      |
| Global Histories                                                        | POL109      | 15      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2      |
| Political Analysis                                                      | POL105      | 30      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Introduction to International Relations                                 | POL106      | 30      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Politics in Action                                                      | POL1**      | 15      | 4     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1      |

**Academic Year of Study**     FT - Year 2

| Module Title                                                                                              | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 30-60 credits of Level 5 HST modules (including up to 30 credits of UoL intercollegiate History modules)  |             |         | 5     | Elective                | 2                      | Semester 1 or 2 |
| 45-60 credits of level 5 POL modules (including up to 30 credits of UoL intercollegiate Politics modules) |             |         | 5     | Elective                | 2                      | Semester 1 or 2 |
| Either HST5614 (30 credits), HST5313 (15 credits) or POL263 Modern Political Thought 1(15 credits)        |             |         | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 or 2 |
| History Research Project                                                                                  | HST5901     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 or 2 |

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

| Module Title                                                                                                                     | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Year abroad with a partner university with a strong emphasis on History and Politics modules (at least 60 ECTS (120 QM credits)) |             | 120     |       | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1 or 2 |

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

| Module Title                                                                                                     | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| EITHER History Research Dissertation (HST6700) + History Special Subject, or UoL intercollegiate special subject |             | 60      | 6     | Compulsory              | 4                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| OR POL318 Dissertation in Politics / International Relations                                                     | POL318      | 45      | 6     | Compulsory              | 4                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| 45-75 credits of elective level 6 POL modules                                                                    |             |         | 6     | Elective                | 4                      | Semester 1 or 2 |
| OR 45-75 credits of elective level 6 HST modules                                                                 |             |         | 6     | Elective                | 4                      | Semester 1 or 2 |

### What are the entry requirements?

The entry requirements are as stated in the Queen Mary prospectus for current entry, and on the Queen Mary website <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/index.html>.

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

Overall administrative responsibility and QMUL accountability for the programme rests with History.

The Programme Convenor will be responsible for the academic content and quality of the programme and any changes to the curriculum in addition to ensuring a regular liaison with SPIR to maintain a consistent quality of teaching across the programme.

The History undergraduate office is responsible for the overall administrative delivery of the programme, ensuring SPIR is provided with all necessary student and organisational information in order to effectively deliver its module(s) and general QMUL administration for students on the programme, including any issues relating to registration, complaints, pastoral care, appeals, and award for the programme.

The overall management and enhancement of the programme lies with the Department of History's undergraduate Teaching and Learning Committee chaired by the Director of Taught Programmes.

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The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. The school operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

The School operates an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

All students beginning to study on the programme participate in a series of Welcome Week activities, which involve introductions to the programme and specific inductions in the use of the online learning environment. These events also include opportunities for social interaction, and scheduled small group and individual meetings with personal advisers. Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an adviser in each School with whom regular meetings are scheduled. Advisers are the designated members of staff with whom students can raise issues and problems and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

All teaching staff hold regular office hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress. There is a dedicated Director of Student Support in History and a dedicated Student Experience Manager Politics who both work with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

The Director of Student Support, Student Experience Manager and all advisers are able to refer students, where appropriate to the relevant professional service departments in the College, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling.

A dedicated post of E-Learning Manager in the School of History supports students in their use of online learning environments used on all modules.

The School of History collaborates with the College's Thinking Writing team and Language Learning unit to support students in the development of their writing skills. Additional support is regularly provided by professional writers working in the College as Royal Literary Fund Fellows.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

All staff in the School of History are required to integrate School principles on equality, diversity and inclusion into the design and planning of teaching modules. This is organised primarily through 'Reflective Practice' guidelines, which were developed in 2018-19 through a series of workshops in the School. They cover a range of topics, including: 'Articulating Perspectives', 'Making the Curriculum More Diverse', 'Accessibility', and 'Communicating Expectations'. All new module proposals are asked to demonstrate how they have taken these guidelines into account, with the proposals scrutinised by a Committee composed of staff and students.

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)

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- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

Students who fail the year abroad will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

### **Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

The skills developed by the study of these two related fields give graduates an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers, including those in government, think-tanks, journalism, teaching and the civil service. The transferable analytical and communications skills students will gain will also make them attractive to employers in less directly related fields in both the public and private sector.

Graduates have found work for organisations as diverse as Deloitte, the Royal Bank of Canada, Scodie Deyong, the House of Commons, the Labour Party and UK Home Office.

Graduates of the programme can expect to have developed:

communication skills, as students are challenged to express themselves in both speech and writing;

presentation skills, as students are asked to introduce seminars, make points clearly and effectively, maintain discussion, and field questions;

reading skills, using a range of approaches to tackle different kinds of texts;

analytical abilities, as students respond to and assess their underlying agendas and meanings;

writing abilities, through preparing a range of assignments (including reports, learning journals, and research essays);

research skills, locating, sifting and interpreting a range of sources (from printed books to electronic journals);

time management skills and the ability to work under pressure, as students organise and fulfill extensive reading commitments and written assessments;

team-working skills, as students participate with peers in seminars and group research presentations.

Every year the School sees a number of students progress to take higher degrees, both at Queen Mary and elsewhere.

## **Programme Specification Approval**

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Matt Latham

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dan Todman

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

26 Nov 2021

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**