

Programme Title: BA History and Comparative Literature 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 History and Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	VQ1Y
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

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

School of History

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

Programme outline

Comparative Literature makes connections between literary texts of different times, places and traditions and between literature and film, music, the visual arts and popular culture, while History complements the study of literature enabling you to gain an understanding of the intellectual, political and social context in which literature is conceived. The History programme covers all the main themes in medieval, modern and contemporary history, ranging from British to European, American, Asian and African topics. Advanced module options in the second and final years permit you to concentrate on the areas of literature and history that interest you most. You will divide your time equally between the two subjects, and you will be able to focus on the intersection of both in a research project in your third year.

This programme enables students to study a full degree at QMUL with an additional year abroad (taken in the third year of study) with one of our internationally excellent partner universities. Students follow the same programme structure for the first, second and final years of the programme as students undertaking a three-year degree. The third year of study will be conducted at a partner university abroad, where students will complete a total equivalent to 120 credits of study.

Aims of the programme

1. To provide a coherent, innovative and intellectually challenging programme which promotes the study of literature from

around the world, and provides a thorough grounding in key aspects at least one of three broad historical periods: medieval, early modern and modern, to a broad constituency of well-qualified students.

2. To offer students a knowledge and appreciation of a comparative contextual approach to the production and reception of literary and non-literary texts and discourse via the cross-cultural and transnational exploration of themes, movements and periods.
3. To offer the opportunity to study European, Latin American and other literatures in translation for those without the language skills to study these in their original languages, but to encourage the reading of literatures in their original language where possible.
4. To familiarize students with essential critical and theoretical methodologies for the study of literature and culture generally, and for the examination of questions of form, genre, literary history, authorship and reception in particular.
5. To problematize the acts of reading and writing so that students can reflect critically upon textual production and reception both in history and in their own practice.
6. To expose students to political, cultural, religious, social and economic themes as appropriate drawn from the School's strengths in British, European and North American History
- 7 To encourage engagement with a wide variety of critical and theoretical modes of inquiry, enabling students to develop advanced skills of literary and cultural analysis, with attention to genre, period, form and style.
8. To enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research tasks.
9. To develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
10. To develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to a wide range of subsequent careers; in particular, to develop graduates' capacity for further learning; to prepare them for further study or research; to equip them to meet international, national, regional or local needs.

What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the areas below. The programme outcomes are referenced to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2010 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

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:

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A 1	Ability to identify the literary, historical and cultural contexts which inform the production and reception of an individual literary or cultural product.
A 2	Develop sensitivity to and awareness of the similarities and dissimilarities between other cultures, societies and literatures, and their own, and an attitude of curiosity and openness towards other cultures.
A 3	Ability to make theoretically informed connections between texts of different periods, literatures and cultures.
A 4	Gain knowledge of the place of literature in relation to the other arts and to popular culture.
A 5	Ability to identify the nature of politics, including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of political ideas, institutions and behaviour.
A 6	Ability to demonstrate a knowledge of historical and contemporary political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study.
A 7	Ability to demonstrate an understanding of major political, cultural and social systems and different historical periods, and a robust and detailed knowledge of at least one historical period and its primary sources.
A 8	Ability to demonstrate an awareness of historiographic argument, and an understanding of the significance of different historiographical approaches.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	analyse a literary or cultural text with sophistication.
B 2	construct cogent and sophisticated critical essays with evidence of independent study and initiative.
B 3	formulate theoretically informed arguments and express these clearly and effectively in the form of oral presentations.
B 4	bring critical skills to bear on the analysis of texts and other cultural products. In addition, to compare the effectiveness of different critical techniques.
B 5	demonstrate and deploy a range of key transferable skills appropriate to analytical investigation and independent critical thinking.

Attributes:

C 1	Demonstrate effective spoken and written communication skills, using IT competently, and adapting communication appropriately according to the social, professional or cultural setting.
C 2	Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources to extend understanding of a subject or situation, and apply this knowledge confidently and constructively.
C 3	Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy of the Schools of Languages, Linguistics and Film and of History. Teaching will be led by research-oriented staff. These strategies aim to:

- Foster a sense of community amongst students and staff in the pursuit of teaching and learning;
- Promote the relationship between staff research, teaching and student learning;
- Expose students to a diverse set of approaches to the study of their subject area;
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and to develop qualities of self-discipline and self-direction;

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Inspire intellectual independence in students;
Employ a variety of assessment methods;
Prepare graduates for training and/or employment, or further academic study through the acquisition of transferable skills.

Teaching takes a number of forms, which may include:

Lectures;

Seminars, including a variety of group work;

Small group tutorials;

Workshops;

Lab work using multi-media resources;

Writing intensive courses;

Field trips;

Independent work by students, including research, presentations and peer review;

Individual supervision of projects and dissertations;

Individual and group feedback on written work.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is typically by a combination of examination and coursework, or of different kinds of coursework. The kind of examination or coursework will vary with the content of each module. Examinations may take the form of essay questions, analysis or exercises. Coursework may consist of essays, longer research projects, textual commentaries, critical reviews, practical exercises, gobbet work, diaries of your own research, poster presentations. Oral presentations, suitably monitored, or in-class quizzes may also be used.

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.

This programme has been withdrawn and is currently being taught out to the last cohort who entered in 2020-21.

Programme Requirements:

Students must take 120 credits in each year of study, meeting all programme and pathway requirements, and will only be able to progress to the next developmental year if they have met the progression requirements. To be eligible for the award of your degree you must have passed a minimum of 315 credits, including 90 credits at level 6. You must take a minimum of 180 credits in History modules and 135 credits in Comparative Literature modules in addition to the Year Abroad module over the period of your studies. You may also take up to 45 credits outside your subject areas in the course of your degree.

Structure of Year 2:

Students take modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits, with a minimum of 90 credits at level 5.

COM200 The Scene of Reading (15 credits) (compulsory module)

HST5901 History Research Project (15 credits) (compulsory module)

Minimum 45 credits / maximum 75 credits of any level 5 HST modules

Minimum 15 credits / maximum 30 credits optional modules to be chosen from COM- coded modules at level 5

Minimum 0 credits / maximum 30 credits of other modules, which may include modules in the School of History at level 5, or modules in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film at levels 4 or 5, or at the discretion of the home Schools and with the permission of the host School/Department modules in another School within Queen Mary at levels 4 or 5, or another History Department within the University of London, providing these are at level 5 ("Group 2" in UoL terminology).

Progression Requirements to Year Abroad

To successfully progress to the Year Abroad students must achieve an average of 2:1 in their second year, with no failed modules (after resit as appropriate), and meet the overall credit requirements for progression under the Academic Regulations which apply to them. Students who do not meet the progression requirement (after resit as appropriate) for the 4-year programme, will be transferred to the 3-year programme.

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Structure of Year 3 (Year Abroad)

120 credits compulsory Year Abroad Module.

Progression Requirements to Year 4 from Year Abroad

To pass the Year Abroad, a student must take 120 credits and pass a minimum 90 credits (following the pass/fail standards of the host institution, for a compulsory year abroad). Failure to pass will result in transfer to the version of the programme without a Year Abroad. While studying for a compulsory year abroad, a student is subject to the regulations and policies of the host institution. This includes reassessment; some institutions do not offer resits, and in those cases a student will have only one attempt to pass each module.

Structure of Year 4:

Students take modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits, with a minimum of 105 credits at level 6.

Compulsory modules (105 credits):

* 60 credits must come from a Special Subject, either as a combination of a 30 credit Special Subject and the 30 credit HST6700 History Research Dissertation in the School of History, or as a 60 credit Special Subject which includes a dissertation ("Group 3" in UoL terminology) at another History Department within the University of London. The Special Subject requires independent research and extensive engagement with primary sources.

* COM300 The Scene of Writing (15 credits)

* Minimum 30 credits / Maximum 45 credits of any level 6 COM-coded modules

* Minimum 0 credits / Maximum 15 credits of other modules, which may include modules in the School of History at level 6, or modules in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film at levels 5 or 6, or at the discretion of the home Schools and with the permission of the host School modules in another School within Queen Mary at levels 5 or 6.

Requirements for Award

To be eligible for your degree, you must pass a minimum of 315 credits in total (excluding the Year Abroad module), including a minimum of 90 credits at level 6.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester

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?

Each school/institute 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

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submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes 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.

Students are given the opportunity to provide feedback through the Module Evaluation system, and through Queen Mary and national surveys.

What academic support is available?

All students beginning 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, 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 advice and feedback hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

There is a dedicated Student Experience Manager in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

Where appropriate, students will be advised to make use of relevant professional service departments at QMUL, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling services.

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Film recognises how closely writing is linked to thinking; and how important writing skills are both in the academic and professional worlds, and collaborates with QMUL's Thinking Writing team which supports students in the development of their writing skills. QMUL also offers a range of services to support you in your learning and help you develop academically and professionally. These include: Academic Study Workshops, Academic English and Study Skills Support and One-to-One Tutorials working with you on your written assignments.

Programme-specific rules and facts

None

Specific support for disabled students

QMUL 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 QMUL students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

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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)
- 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.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Graduates from Queen Mary's School of Languages, Linguistics and Film go on to work in a wide variety of careers. Some apply their degree knowledge directly, entering careers such as education and the arts, whilst others transfer skills gained during study into areas such as public relations.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Heather Heiner

Person responsible for management of programme:

Parvati Nair, Head of School

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

January 2022

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: