

Programme Title: MA History of Political Thought and Intellectual History



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London and University College London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London and University College London
Name of final award and programme title:	MA History of Political Thought and Intellectual History
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year (FT) or 2 (PT)
QMUL programme code(s):	V1Q3, V1Q4
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
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:

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Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

University College London, Kings College London

Programme outline

Students on the programme will take a core course together with a selection of individual course modules, and complete a Masters dissertation. The core course, which runs across two Semesters, is taken by all students and taught by a selection of staff within the University. In addition to the core, students choose their preferred modules from a menu of specialist options. After the completion of coursework in semesters one and two, the dissertation is undertaken over the spring and summer months, under the supervision of an expert in the relevant subject area.

Aims of the programme

The MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History aims (a) to provide students with a rigorous training in the various approaches to intellectual history and the history of political thought which have made a major impact on these subject-areas within the humanities over the course of the past half-century, including ideology critique, genealogical critique, hermeneutics, and the contextualist method and (b) to expose students to the detailed study, under expert scholarly guidance,

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of historical case studies in terms of (i) specific periods (e.g. Classical, Renaissance, Enlightenment) (ii) specific themes (e.g. natural law, republicanism, liberalism) and/or (iii) specific figures in the history of thought (e.g. Aristotle, Hobbes, Wollstonecraft, Tocqueville).

What will you be expected to achieve?

At the end of the course successful students will be thoroughly conversant with the most important and up to date historiographical and conceptual frameworks for the study of the history of political thought and intellectual history and will have become thoroughly versed in the practical problems of intellectual history through detailed study of individual periods/thinkers/texts. Students will also be in a position to select, in a properly informed way, an area of research for doctoral work should that be their preferred path after the completion of the MA.

Altogether, students will have acquired specialist knowledge of the contextual study of political thought and the history of ideas, proper interpretative skills for reading past texts, and a full appreciation of the range of historical sources relevant to the history of political thought (most obviously printed sources, such as texts, pamphlets, sermons and tracts, but also unpublished sources such as parliamentary diaries and government papers).

Academic Content:

A 1	Knowledge of methodology in intellectual history
A 2	Knowledge of academic debates in political thought
A 3	Knowledge of core canon of political thinkers

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Historical knowledge of period
B 2	Mastery of modes of argument
B 3	Research in historical studies skills

Attributes:

C 1	High level ability in analysis of argument
C 2	Capacity for evaluating relevance in argument
C 3	High level communication skills

How will you learn?

1. The core module (Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History) will be taught in seminar sessions by a range of staff from across the University of London in the presence of the course convenor (the programme director) who will be responsible for the coherence of the course delivery in terms of fulfilling the academic aims and objectives. The convenor will also deliver individual sessions of the core module. The core module will provide students with the essential elements necessary for graduate work in the history of political thought and intellectual history, involve active student participation, open discussion and expert academic guidance. The course will supply introductions to and discussion of a wide range of approaches and debates within the field of study. Classes in semester 1 will concentrate on methodology in intellectual history while semester 2 will focus on key figures in the history of political thought, paying due attention to wide historical context and the relevant methodological approaches discussed in the first part of the course.

2. Modules from a Menu of Courses: These modules will be taught in individual 2-hour seminar sessions lasting for either one semester (15 credits) or two (30 credits). Students will take 60 credits worth of modules on top of their core module and dissertation. Seminars will be encourage student participation while discussion will be guided by course leaders.

How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed by essays and the dissertation.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The MA will comprise the following elements: a 60 credit core module, 60 credits taken from a menu of elective course modules and a 60 credit dissertation.

These elements have the following features:

1. 60 credits compulsory core module - HST7799 Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History
2. 60 credits from a Menu of Elective Modules
3. 60 credits dissertation module

The part time programme is split so students take the core course [HST7799 60 credits] in year one. Students normally take all their electives in the second year, although they can elect to take some in the first year.

In year two students have to complete the credits with elective modules, plus submit the dissertation at the end of the summer.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History	HST7799	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Various elective History of Political Thought and Intellectual History modules	Various	60	7	Elective	1	Semester 1 or 2
Dissertation - MA History of Political Thought and Intellectual History	HST7603	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 2 & 3

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History	HST7799	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Various elective History of Political Thought and Intellectual History modules	Various	60	7	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
Dissertation - MA History of Political Thought and Intellectual History	HST7603	60	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 2 & 3

What are the entry requirements?

Students with relevant degree qualifications within the broad field of the Humanities are welcome to apply. We actively encourage applications from students who have developed an interest in any aspect of the history of political thought, intellectual history, or the history of philosophy. Normally, the requirement is a first degree with first or upper second class honours, or the equivalent in History, Politics, Law, Philosophy, Modern Languages and Literatures, or a cognate discipline. If English is not your first language, then this degree requires a score of 7.5 or higher on the IELTS or an equivalent qualification. Mature students are encouraged to apply.

How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

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

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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 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 PTES and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

All students beginning to study on the programme participate in a series of Welcome Week activities at Queen Mary, 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 collaborating Institution 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.

The Core Course will normally be taught at UCL, Bloomsbury while specialist options will be taught in the departments of the relevant course leaders.

Students choose their preferred modules from a menu of specialist options. After the completion of coursework in semesters one and two, the dissertation is undertaken over the spring and summer months, under the supervision of an expert in the relevant subject area.

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 the School who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

Both the Director of Student Support 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 E-Learning team within the School supports students in their use of online learning environments used on all modules.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Assessment

QMUL is responsible for the co-ordination of a Joint Examination Board for the programme. The Joint Examination Board will include at least one representative from each of UCL and QMUL, and all module convenors (core and optional).

Appeals, Complaints and Academic Misconduct

The operation of appeals and academic misconduct, academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism) and any other such assessment regulations shall take place in accordance with those of the institution with lead responsibility for the administration (QMUL in the first instance). The Programme Director and Programme Co-Director will ensure information on this is provided to students. In the case of appeals relating to a particular module the regulations of the owning institution will take precedence.

Award

The award made on successful completion of the programme is a joint award of MA of UCL and University of London, PG Diploma and PG Certificate of UCL and QMUL.

The regulations governing student conduct and other matters shall be those of the lead institution. If a specific breach of local regulations takes place at the other college or at a contributing institution, the regulations of that college may be invoked with the agreement of the lead institution.

Classification

The MA in History of Political Thought and Intellectual History follows the standard Queen Mary regulations in every respect

except that a student meeting the requirements for award will receive an award in the names of both Queen Mary and UCL.

Specific support for disabled 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)
- 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

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

Queen Mary benefits from links with legal chambers, and leading publishing houses where students can receive additional training through short term placement programmes and internships.

Postgraduates of the programme can expect to have developed:

a strong grounding in intellectual history, the history of political thought and the history of philosophy;

an advanced understanding of historiographical method and interpretative practice;

a high level of articulacy through the acquisition of advanced communication skills;

advanced and confident presentation skills;

highly developed interpretative and analytical skills with the ability to contextualise and critique a broad range of texts, excellent research skills and writing ability.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Matt Latham

Person responsible for management of programme:

Professor Andrew Fitzmaurice

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

25 Feb 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: