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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 German and Comparative Literature
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years / 3 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	QR22 4 yr / QRGZ 3 yr
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	n/a
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of the Arts

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

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

Programme outline

Comparative Literature is about making comparisons – and connections – between challenging themes and motifs in different literatures and cultures. As well as having the opportunity to study a range of genres, time periods, and national literatures (all of which can be studied in translation), you can cross nationalities and even time periods. You could also examine links between literature and a whole range of other art forms: such as music; film; popular culture or visual arts. Equally, studying modern languages is about more than vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation: you will also immerse yourself in culture, spend time working or studying abroad and learn to understand the subtleties of communication.

In this programme your time is split equally between German and comparative literature. You will study German language and culture in depth, and explore the broader perspective of the literatures and cultures of Europe, Latin America and beyond.

In each year you follow core language modules in which skills in the understanding and expression of German are developed by a variety of methods. In your first year you will follow foundation modules introducing you to various aspects of literary theory and critical thinking, including one focusing on German linguistics, literature and culture. In your second and final years you will take increasingly advanced module options concentrating on particular literary themes, movements and genres, and may opt to undertake a research project in your final year. Your third year is normally spent abroad, in Germany or a German-speaking

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country. You may be able to choose to study at another university, or else take up a work placement, for example as a teaching assistant.

Aims of the programme

1. To provide a coherent, innovative and intellectually challenging programme which promotes the study of literature from around the world, as well as German language, linguistics, literature and culture to a broad constituency of well-qualified students.
2. To impart a high level of linguistic knowledge and skills, both productive and receptive, in the German language, fostering an understanding of the language itself as a rewarding object of study, from the perspectives of linguistics and philology.
3. To give students access to a range of material in the foreign language that is worthy of study either as a product of the culture concerned or in a broader cultural and intellectual perspective, or both. This material can be found in different media (written and visual, such as cinema) and different genres (fiction, theatre, poetry, philosophy and so forth). These aims intertwine, since the broader and deeper the student's knowledge of and skills in the language, the broader and deeper the understanding of the material they can achieve.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. To enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research tasks.
10. To develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
11. 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.

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Academic Content:	
A 1	Ability to demonstrate a knowledge of the core linguistic, literary and cultural concepts in the study of German. In addition, to evaluate different theoretical perspectives on these concepts.
A 2	Ability to illustrate the core analytical ideas relevant to these concepts, specify and apply these core analytical ideas.
A 3	Ability to identify the character of cultural products in German (influence of genre, history and function). In addition, to critically evaluate the character of such cultural products.
A 4	Ability to identify the literary, historical and cultural contexts which inform the production and reception of an individual literary or cultural product.
A 5	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 6	Ability to make theoretically informed connections between texts of different periods, literatures and cultures.
A 7	Gain knowledge of the place of literature in relation to the other arts and to popular culture.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	develop advanced oral, written and comprehension skills in the German language, becoming fluent and accurate users of the language in a wide range of domains and registers.
B 2	understand the socio-historical contexts of literary and linguistic aspects of German. In addition, to engage with theoretical models of such contexts.
B 3	construct cogent and sophisticated critical essays with evidence of independent study and initiative.
B 4	formulate theoretically informed arguments and express these clearly and effectively in the form of oral presentations.
B 5	bring critical skills to bear on the analysis of texts and other cultural products. In addition, to compare the effectiveness of different critical techniques.

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B6	demonstrate and deploy a range of key transferable skills appropriate to analytical investigation and independent critical thinking.
B7	analyse a literary or cultural text with sophistication.

Attributes:	
C1	Demonstrate effective spoken and written communication skills, using IT competently, and adapting communication appropriately according to the social, professional or cultural setting.
C2	Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources to extend understanding of a subject or situation, and apply this knowledge confidently and constructively.
C3	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 School. 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;
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, diaries of your own research, poster presentations. Oral presentations, suitably monitored, or in-class quizzes may also be used. Language examinations may include oral and aural assessments.

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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.

Students must take a minimum of 150 credits in Comparative Literature modules and a minimum of 150 credits in German in addition to the Year Abroad module in German over the period of their studies. The Year Abroad is worth 120 credits and is a compulsory and integral part of the degree programme. Exceptionally the School can exempt students from the Year Abroad. These students will submit a change of programme form to change their degree to a 3-year degree. The programme requirements for the 3 year variant are exactly the same as for the 4 year programme but without the Year Abroad requirements.

Year 1
30 credits compulsory module COM4212 Knowledge and Power
15 credits compulsory module COM4213 Understanding Global Cultures: Exploring the Big Questions
15 credits compulsory module COM4211 Beyond Compare: Literature Across Borders
30 credits core German language module; GER4204 German I or GER4201 Introductory German or GER4205 German I Intensive
30 credits compulsory module SML4006 Culture and Language

Year 2 - Students must meet academic requirements to progress to year 2.
15 Credits compulsory module COM5217 Adventures in World Literature
30 credits core German language module; GER5202 German II or GER5203 German II Intensive or GER5200 German II (for Native Speakers)
Minimum 15 credits of SML/FRE/GER/HSP/RUS/POR/CHI/CAT/LIB coded elective modules
Minimum 30 credits of COM coded elective modules
Minimum 0 credits / Maximum 30 credits optional modules to be chosen from all modules offered in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, subject to space available on modules and with the guidance of your advisor.

Year Abroad - Students must meet academic requirements to progress to year 2. Exceptionally the School can exempt students from the Year Abroad and these students will progress directly to the final year.
EITHER 120 credits Year Abroad Assessment module OR 2 x 60 credits Semester Abroad Assessment modules
Credits related to the Year Abroad assessment (as applicable) do not count towards the overall credit requirements for award.

Final Year - Students must meet academic requirements to progress to final year.
Students take 120 credits (minimum of 90 credits at level 6, maximum 30 credits at level 5) and normally 60 credits in each semester. Final Year students may not take credits at level 4.

15 Credits compulsory module COM6219 Literary Culture in the Digital Age
30 credits core German language module; GER6200 German III or GER061N German III (For Native Speakers)
Minimum 15 credits of SML/FRE/GER/HSP/RUS/POR/CHI/CAT/LIB coded elective modules
Minimum 30 credits of COM coded elective modules
Minimum 0 credits / Maximum 30 credits optional modules to be chosen from all modules offered in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, subject to space available on modules and with the guidance of your advisor.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Culture and Language	SML4006	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
German I	GER4204	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introductory German	GER4201	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
German I Intensive	GER4205	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
German II	GER5202	30	5	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
German II Intensive	GER5203	30	5	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
German II (for Native Speakers)	GER5200	30	5	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
German III	GER6200	30	6	Core	3/4	Semesters 1 & 2
German III (For Native Speakers)	GER061N	30	6	Core	3/4	Semesters 1 & 2
Modern Languages Semester Abroad study placement	STA5006A	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 1
Modern Languages Semester Abroad study placement	STA5006B	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 2
Modern Languages Semester Abroad work placement	STA5005A	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 1
Modern Languages Semester Abroad work placement	STA5005B	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 2
Modern Languages Self-Study Semester Abroad Assessment	STA5004A	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 1
Modern Languages Self-Study Semester Abroad Assessment	STA5004B	60	5	Compulsory	3	Semester 2
Modern Languages Year Abroad study placement	STA5002	120	5	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Modern Languages Year Abroad work placement	STA5001	120	5	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Knowledge and Power	COM4212	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Understanding Global Cultures: Exploring the Big Questions	COM4213	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Beyond Compare: Literature Across Borders	COM4211	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Adventures in World Literature	COM5217	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Literary Culture in the Digital Age	COM6219	15	6	Compulsory	3	Semester 1

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?

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School of the Arts and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments, and meets regularly throughout the year.

It reports in turn to the School of the Arts Education Committee (including the Director of Education), which advises the School Board 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 the university's 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 of the Arts operates regular Programme Reviews of taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision according to University policies. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Director of Education, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the School's Programme Reviews. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS Survey and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

All students beginning study on the programme will participate in a series of Welcome Week activities, including introductions to the programme, inductions in the use of the online learning environment and the use of the School's practical spaces and technical facilities. 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 advisor, with whom regular meetings are scheduled. All teaching staff will hold regular drop-in hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

The School's Director of Student Support is a designated member of staff with whom students can also raise issues and problems, and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

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

Programme-specific rules and facts

None

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 differences 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 difference 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 the School of the Arts 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: Elena Moreira

Person responsible for management of programme: Kathryn Richardson

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee: January 2025

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Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:

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