Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MA Historical Research**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMAHISTO_C: TMAHISIP_C – on-campus study TMAHISMX_C – flexible study TMAHISON_C -online study TMAHISTJ_C (on-campus, Jan start)
	UCAS code	N/A
6	**Home Department**	History, Classics and Archaeology
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip, PG Cert
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 year full-time; 2 years part-time
9	**Mode of Study**	FT x PT x DL-FT x DL-PT x
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Group**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	This programme provides students with a structured masters programme in a specific field of historical study. It provides a framework within which preparation for doctoral study can be undertaken, for those who wish to progress to a research degree; but is focussed particularly on provision of a rich and varied experience of studying history at level 7. Teaching is research-led, delivered by core staff.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	Subject Specific: 1. an awareness of contemporary historical practice 2. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of historical documents and other forms of source material where appropriate 3. to use historical sources to form interpretations about past societies

4. to understand core debates within specific subject fields

Intellectual:

5. the ability to carry out effective and critical evaluations of information, data and interpretations

6. the use of critical reasoning

7. the development of analytical skills

8. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information

9. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them

Practical:

10. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with word processing and internet, and where appropriate with databases and spreadsheets

11. ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data

12. to carry out documentary-based research

13. to present findings both orally and in writing

Personal and Social:

14. the ability to work successfully in teams

15. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis

16. to develop presentation skills

17. to develop organisational skills

18. to master time-management

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Learning is achieved through a balance of formal pedagogy and independent study, with an emphasis upon the latter, suitable to this level of study in a humanities subject. Teaching is done primarily via seminar group, with occasional lectures; and in one-to-one tutorials as and when necessary. Where appropriate, use is made of on-line resources including Moodle.

Those students taking the online route through the programme, or who select one or more of the online modules as part of their studies, will be taught through a mixture of online seminars, live and recorded lecture material, and a range of additional online resources.

Assessment is via written work, with a different essay for each module, and a substantial dissertation. |

18	**Programme Description**

The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the core module 'Mastering Historical Research' in the first term of their degree. They then have a choice of a further three option modules (taken across two years for the part-time degree, or within one year for the full-time degree). There is also skills training in preparation for the dissertation in the spring term of the first year of study; students receive one-to-one supervision for their dissertation research, and the dissertation is then submitted in the middle of September in the year in which the degree is completed.

Most options are delivered in-person, some are delivered both in-person and online, and some online only. There is sufficient online provision to allow students to complete their degrees with no in-person modules.

Indicative list of option modules:

HICL228S7 - A Continent on the Move: Migration in Europe, 1919 to 2019

SSHC543S7   Antisemitism, Holocaust, Colonialism, Gender: Connecting the Conversation

HICL193S7   Arab-Israeli Question

HICL255S7   Contested Past, Troubled Present: Britain and Ireland since 1800 - Religion in Society and Politics

HICL033S7   Death, Disease and Early Modern City

SSHC528S7   Decolonising History/Histories of Decolonisation

HICL135S7 - Globalisation and the Rise of the Modern Consumer

SSHC488S7   Imagined Landscapes of the Middle Ages

SSHC009S7   Out of Ashes: Europe, 1945 to the 1960s

FDGD012S7   Queer Histories/Queer Cultures

SSHC503S7   Sex, Work and the Law: Prostitution and Sex Trafficking in Modern History

HICL224S7   The Global Soviet Union, 1917-1991

SSHC474S7   The Modern Mediterranean: From Colonial Sea to Environmental Crisis?

SSHC513S7   The Politics of the Past: Heritage in a Changing World

SSHC360S7   The Radical Sixties

SSHC477S7   The Silk Road: Imagining Global Cultures from the Middle Ages to UNESCO and BRI

SSHC428S7   To See the World in a Grain of Sand: Reading and Writing Microhistories

Options available for online route 2022/3:

FDGD012S7   Queer Histories, Queer Cultures

FDGD009S7   Theorising Gender

HICL022S7   The Historian's Craft

HICL195S7   The Science of Progress? Darwin, Evolution and the Making of Modernity

SSHC543S7   Antisemitism, Holocaust, Colonialism, Gender: Connecting the Conversation

19	**Programme Structure**				
Full Time programme – 1 year					
Year 1					
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***	
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	compulsory	
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills for Historians	0	Compulsory	
7		(Option 1)	30	optional	
7		(Option 2)	30	optional	
7		(Option 3)	30	optional	
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	compulsory	
Part Time programme – 2 years					
Year 1					
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***	
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	compulsory	
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills for Historians	0	Compulsory	
7		(Option 1)	30	optional	
7		(Option 2)**	30	optional	
Year 2					
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***	
7		(Option 3)	30	optional	
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	compulsory	

**Option 2 may be taken in year 2 instead.
Note: Students on the January start take the same programme as above, but the two compulsory taught modules are taken in the Spring terms instead of Autumn, and the dissertation is submitted in January instead of September.
Status*
CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Programme Director**	Dr Sean Brady
21	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Prior to 2008
22	**Date approved by TQEC**	Prior to 2008
23	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Prior to 2008
24	**Date(s) updated/amended**	18 March 2022