PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MRes History** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Cert
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMRHISTO_C
HECoS Code	100302
Start date of programme	Autumn 2014
Date of programme approval	Summer 2014
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	**2024-25**
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	09/08/2022

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants with a wide range of previous experience and qualifications. A second class honours BA degree (2.2 or above) and an MA degree (Merit or above), at least one of which should be in History, satisfies the standard requirement, but we do base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. You are expected to complete a 500-word dissertation proposal, to be included with the application form.

Course aims

The MRes History is a taught postgraduate research course which sits in between our taught MA and MPhil/PhD research degrees. It equips you with the advanced historical research skills and conceptual framework needed to complete an individual, large-scale research project. The course centres on the research and writing of a 32,000-word dissertation which allows you to demonstrate the advanced historical research skills learned in the two core modules.

The core modules extend your analytical skills and project management skills through, first, the planning and writing of a long literature review which advances your critical knowledge of your chosen field of research; and second, the development of a detailed research proposal. You will be taught practical historical skills and techniques, including locating and retrieving historical material, critiquing primary and secondary sources, and examining and organising historical information. Both modules are taught by experienced, research-active academics using a wide range of methodological and theoretical approaches. You will work with an internationally renowned specialist supervisor in your chosen field of research and will be invited to events organised by, and for, our vibrant MPhil/PhD community, thus broadening your range of academic and intellectual contacts.

This course is ideal for self-motivated and committed students who already have an MA in a humanities subject and wish to research and write on a defined historical topic from pre-history to contemporary history. Students who take this course often do so because they wish to do independent, professional research or in preparation for research at PhD level.

Core modules:
On the MRes History you will take the following core modules:

- Historian's Craft
- Planning Historical Research
- MRes Dissertation

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	SSHC342S7	Planning Historical Research	30	Core	T1
7	SSHC399S7	The Historian's Craft	30	Core	T2
7	SSHC341Q7	MRes Dissertation	120	Core	T1-3
Part-time- 2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSHC342S7	Planning Historical Research	30	Core	T1
7	SSHC399S7	The Historian's Craft	30	Core	T2
Year 2					
7	SSHC341Q7	MRes Dissertation	120	Core	T1-3

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, you are expected to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course may include lectures but is predominantly structured as seminars, or discussion-focused group sessions. In the modules 'Planning Historical Research' and 'Historian's Craft', research-active members of our internationally recognised staff will train you in project management, sharpen critical analytical skills, and deepen insights into the collection and use of primary and secondary sources. Seminars also encourage the construction of collaborative knowledge alongside the diverse community of your fellow students. As a programme focused upon an individual research project, the critical element in deepening your subject knowledge and honing your critical skills is extensive reading and other forms of independent learning. You will complete your dissertation project under the supervision of an expert member of our staff.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

This History programme focused upon a research project emphasises written assessment, from shorter assignments including a literature review and a dissertation proposal, to the significant dissertation project of 32,000 words. These assignments grow in complexity across the duration of the programme, offering the reassurance of guided progression to and through the dissertation, and tailored writing support is available within the department and at college level for students who might benefit from additional advice.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Critically analyse narratives about the past and its role in the present across a range of contexts

- Understand and interrogate primary sources (from the past) and secondary sources (about the past) in discussion and writing
- Read and use historical scholarship at a high academic level
- Discuss texts, objects and diverse media with a group of your peers
- Present your own research and arguments orally
- Design your own research questions and programme of research
- Navigate archives, collections, oral history sources, and libraries
- Carry out research and writing at multiple scales
- Engage with communities of historians, from academic workshops and conferences to public historians to your local community
- Gain skills suited to design and create disseminations of your research in multiple forms, from article to podcast to public lecture

Careers and further study

The MRes History prepares you for any role which benefits from skills in research, communication and engagement. Graduates of our programme work across professions and disciplines, from education to business to the arts, from museums and galleries to the heritage sector, from journalism to government, from social work to non-governmental and charitable organisations. Graduates interested in further study are well prepared to go on to complete MPhil/PhD programmes.

Birkbeck's MRes History graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work independently and as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument to a range of audiences

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including whom to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.