

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts in Holocaust Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to introduce students in detail the history and historiography of the Holocaust;
- to cover in detail cultural, philosophical and representational questions arising from the Holocaust;
- to introduce contemporary arguments and current research about the Holocaust;
- to enhance the intellectual abilities of the students and to foster their independent learning abilities;
- for students with the appropriate ability, offer a full grounding for doctoral work.

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

### Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will have knowledge and understanding at an advanced level

- of the most important aspects of the history and historiography of the Holocaust;
- of significant questions of schools of culture, philosophy and representation arising from the Holocaust;
- of methods and concepts of various disciplines (historical, literary, philosophical and others).

#### *Skills and other attributes*

Students will advance their intellectual skills, particularly in the following areas:

- analysis and interpretation of texts;\*
- abstract thought;\*
- evaluation of conflicting theories and opinions;\*
- critical engagement with ideas and issues;\*

- development and demonstration of independence and originality of mind and thought.\*

Students will improve their practical skills in the following areas:

- Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;\*
- structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing;\*
- manage time and work to deadlines;\*
- participate constructively in group discussions;\*
- work independently and together with others;\*
- identify problems, find information and use information technology;\*
- plan, undertake and write down a significant piece of independent research.

\*transferable skills

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### Teaching, learning and assessment

Students will be assessed by seminar discussions, individual and/or group presentations, by assessed course work (essays will be obligatory in all courses) and, finally, the dissertation. In all courses students will be encouraged to undertake not only required but also independent reading. In all courses special emphasis will be laid on the active participation of students (general debates, discussions in small groups, presentations). Students will be encouraged to discuss their progress in regular meetings with their academic advisors and the performance of all students will be discussed at the teachers' board. Teachers will discuss essays individually with students and supervise the dissertations. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [School](#).

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### Details of the programme structure(s)

The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in September

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook.

Students must take the following:

- (i) GM5935: History and Historiography of the Holocaust (25%)  
Plus options to the value of 37.5% from the following options:
  - (ii) GM5940: Documents of the Holocaust (12.5%)
  - (iii) GM5945: Post-Holocaust Philosophy (12.5%)
  - (iv) EN5131: Representing the Holocaust in British and American Literature (12.5%)
  - (v) HS5735: Faith, Politics and the Jews of Europe, 1848 – 1918 (12.5%)
- Plus a dissertation worth 37.5%

Student may be permitted to replace one option course with an appropriate MA course from other MA programmes in the Faculties of Arts and History and Social Sciences. (These choices may be limited by the discretion of the Programme Director).

### Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students take 3 half-unit modules (or 1 unit worth 25% and 1 worth 12.5%) in the first year and 2 half unit modules (or 1 full unit), together with the dissertation, in the second.

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### Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework. To pass the programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The **Masters** degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The **Masters** degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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### **Student support and guidance**

- Personal Advisers. All students are allocated to a Personal Adviser, whose role is to offer them advice on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Personal Advisers see their students at regular intervals, typically once a term, throughout the programme. They are also available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- All tutors are available for consultation by their students at advertised office hours.
- Dissertation Supervisor. Each student is assigned a supervisor, who gives advice on the selection of the topic, supervises the research programme, and provides feedback on one draft of the dissertation.
- A full guide to the programme is sent to all students before their arrival.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are available in the College libraries and in the Computer Centre.
- Students enjoy access to the College Careers Service.
- Students enjoy access to all College and University support services, including the Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre, and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.
- Within the School a Staff-Student Committee meets once very term to discuss any issues and concerns. The minutes are sent to the Head of School and the School Research Committee where issues raised by the Staff-Student Committee can be dealt with if deemed appropriate. Students on the MA elect a representative to serve on this committee, to express their views as necessary, and to report back to them on any action which is recommended.

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### **Admission requirements**

Admission to this programme normally requires at least an upper second class honours first degree from the UK or an equivalent qualification from overseas. Applicants with non-standard qualifications will also be considered. Normally all applicants will attend an interview. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further details please refer to the [Prospective Students](#) web page. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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### **Further learning and career opportunities**

Graduates from the MA programme have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions which include journalism and the media, the public sector, and teaching. For other graduates, completing an MA is the precursor to embarking on research, ultimately leading to a PhD. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four

categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4\* standard and 18th for 3\* and 4\* research.

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### **List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation**

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. The core course is taught at the Wiener Library in London, which is the leading place for secondary literature and archival material on the Holocaust in Britain.

### **Master of Arts programme in Holocaust Studies**

MA Holocaust Studies (1219)

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