

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2021**.

The aims of the course 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 Master's course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). On successful completion of the course a student should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the course(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, courses and the availability of individual modules 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 course. 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 course are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the course 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

[Back to top](#)

### Teaching, learning and assessment

Students will be assessed by seminar discussions, individual and/or group presentations, by assessed coursework (essays will be obligatory in all modules) and, finally, the dissertation. In all modules students will be encouraged to undertake not only required but also independent reading. In all modules 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 modules can be obtained from the [Department](#).

[Back to top](#)

### Details of the course structure(s)

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

The brief outline of the course is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. **Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade.**

Students must take the following:

- (i) HS5730: History of the Holocaust (30 credits)
- (ii) HS5731: Interpreting the Holocaust (30 credits)

And any three option modules (the following four modules are currently advertised in the PGT course finder):

- (iii) EN5131: Representing the Holocaust in British and American Literature (20 credits)
- (iv) MA5056: Film, Television and the Holocaust (20 credits)
- (v) HS5648: HS5129: A Transnational Holocaust (20 credits)
- (vi) HS5131: Genocide: Comparative Approaches (20 credits)

Please note that not all modules run each academic year.

Plus a dissertation (HS5790) worth 60 credits.

Students may be permitted to replace one option module with an appropriate MA module from other MA courses. (These choices may be limited by the discretion of the Programme Director).

The course structure for the PgDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation, while that for the PG Cert is that students are required to pass modules worth only 60 credits.

### Part-time course structure

The course can be taken part-time over two to five years beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take HS5730: History of the Holocaust and HS5731: Interpreting the Holocaust in their first year. Students who take modules over more than two years should discuss with the department the order in which to take core and optional modules. The dissertation/ project is normally taken and completed in the final year of study.

[Back to top](#)

### **Progression and award requirements**

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework.

Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

To pass the course 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 modules 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.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught module which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50% *and* has either chosen not to proceed to the dissertation, or has failed the dissertation on either the first or second attempt. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if they are, such condoned fails would be in modules which do not constitute more than 40 credits.

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

The Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any module 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 module. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The Postgraduate Certificate may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught module which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

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

The Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any module 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 module. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

[Back to top](#)

[Back to top](#)

### **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 course. 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. However, as takers of a postgraduate degree, MA students will be expected to access as a matter of course the British Library and other specialist collections in Senate House and other University of London libraries. Students enjoy membership of a number of research centres and libraries in Central London, including the University of London's Institute of Historical Research and Senate House library. They also have easy access to the British Library and the National Archives, as well as a host of research archives.
- 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 Dyslexia and Disability Services (ESO) for students with special needs.
- The Departmental Staff-Student Postgraduate Committee, which has at least one member from each History MA course, acts as a two-way channel of communication between the Department and the student community.

[Back to top](#)

### **Admission requirements**

Admission to this course 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.

[Back to top](#)

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

Graduates from the MA course 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](#).

[Back to top](#)

### **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 Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the REF 2014 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. 81% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 25th in the UK for research rated 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

[Back to top](#)

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

The course is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. The core module is taught at Senate House in central London and in close proximity to The Wiener Holocaust Library, the world's oldest Holocaust library and the UK's leading repository for secondary literature and archival material on the Holocaust in Britain and with on-site access to leading European archives, such as the Arolsen Archives. The delivery of the core and option modules is split between London and Egham, usually over two days. Students are reimbursed for travel expenses up to £140 in total to cover train fares to London and Egham from their term addresses (this figure will be adjusted from time to time).

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

MA Holocaust Studies (2553)

### **Postgraduate Diploma in Holocaust Studies**

PG Diploma in Holocaust Studies (2899)

### **Postgraduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies**

PG Certificate in Holocaust Studies(2900)

[Back to top](#)