

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MA Ancient History (1010)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

The 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 you should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

The MA in Ancient History is an intercollegiate degree course of the University of London, taught by the Departments of Classics, Greek and Latin, and History in King's College London, Royal Holloway, University of London, and University College London. Teaching is divided between the individual colleges and the Institute of Classical Studies. You must take CL5300 Sources and Methods in Ancient History, and a module or modules amounting to 30 credits from a list of dedicated Ancient History modules, plus further modules to a value of 60 credits, and a dissertation. You may include, subject to the approval of the Course Director, an appropriate module from any other MA course within the University of London.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.

Module – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	November 2023	Location of study	Egham Campus/Royal Holloway Central London Buildings
Course award and title	MA Ancient History	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	1010	Year of entry	2024/25
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Department of Classics School of Humanities	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time / Part-time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - 260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/		

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information				
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study				
Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see section 6)
CL5300	Sources and Methods in Ancient History	30	7	MC
CL5000	Dissertation in the field of Ancient History	60	7	MNC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see Academic Regulations on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p>				
3.2 Optional modules				
<p>In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Royal Holloway operates in agreement with King's College London and University College London to provide an extensive list of modules within the field of Classical Studies, including modules in history, archaeology, language acquisition, and literature. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can normally access via Moodle.</p>				

3.3 Optional module requirements

The choice of modules a student can take is subject to the following rules:

- An optional module or modules to the value of 30 credits to be chosen from the current list of modules for the MA in Ancient History.
- An optional module or modules to the value of 60 credits to be chosen (subject to the approval of the Course Director) from a list of modules offered by the Department or by other London institutions as part of the Intercollegiate MA programmes in Classics, Classical Art and Archaeology, or Late Antique and Byzantine Studies.
- Please note that not all modules run each year. A full list of modules including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a 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.

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the [College's Postgraduate Taught Regulations](#) (Section 15: Consideration and classification of candidates for the award) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

Part-time programme structure

The programme can be taken over two to five years beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take CL5300 and a selection of options in their first year, and CL5000 and a selection of options in their second year.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- enable students to explore the diverse range of ancient world studies and to specialise in relevant disciplinary areas within the field of Ancient History;
- deliver a programme which is informed by the research expertise of staff, which is suited to the needs of students, which provides opportunities for students to develop academically, and which prepares students for further study;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Ancient History and of the research associated with it, and to prepare students to undertake their own research under appropriate levels of supervision;
- support the development of a range of transferable skills suitable both for further academic study and for a range of future careers.

Section 6 – Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a detailed knowledge and understanding of the methodologies of Ancient History (K); 2. methodologies in the study of Ancient History and their limitations (K); 3. an understanding of advanced, current research issues relevant to the discipline (K); 4. a critical awareness of the multiplicity of material available and the strengths and weaknesses of the various forms of historical information (K); 5. a general appreciation of the varied and interlinked methodologies for understanding antiquity (K); 6. a critical awareness of the main forms of material available to those studying Classical antiquity (K); 7. an ability to understand and appreciate the limits of current understanding and knowledge of antiquity (S); 8. an advanced ability to consider and criticise secondary literature (S); * 9. an ability to synthesise complex information from a range of sources (S); * 10. an ability to consider, analyse and present research issues within a discussion format (S); * 11. an ability to discuss research methodology with rigour (S); * 12. an ability to pursue an extended piece of independent research to an appropriate level with appropriate supervision and guidance (S); * 13. an ability to present research in a manner appropriate to the Ancient History research discipline (S); 14. the skills necessary to pursue further research, whether academic or professional (S); * 15. an ability to compare ancient institutions and societies (S); 16. a range of skills and knowledge of methodologies drawn from a variety of sub-areas of Classical Studies (S); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. interpretative and analytical skills in dealing with a variety of primary and secondary source material including some of literary and/ or philosophical, archaeological, documentary and legal material (S); 18. an ability to attain an understanding of ancient cultural and social forms from a range of different source materials (S); 19. skills necessary for the written and oral presentation of argument and debate (S); * 20. the discipline to meet deadlines (S); * 21. research skills and the capacity of independent thought and study (S). * |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning in the courses are closely informed by the active research of staff. Teaching and learning are mostly by means of lectures, seminar discussions, oral presentations, site and museum visits, group work, problem solving study groups, practical project work, guided independent research and guided independent study. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research cognitive, intellectual and general skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by coursework essays, group work, oral presentations, reports and exercises and an independent dissertation. Details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme. However, should you decide to take modules in London, travel may be required.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our [website](#).

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements).	
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	