

Programme Specification

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Awarding body | University of London |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Birkbeck College |
| 3 | Programme Title(s) | BA History and Archaeology |
| 4 | Programme Code(s) | UUBAHAR_C (Full-time 3 years) UBAHAR_C (Part-time 4 years) |
| 5 | UCAS code (if applicable) | VV14 |
| 6 | Home Department | History, Classics and Archaeology |
| 7 | Exit Award(s) | Dip HE; Cert HE |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | 3 years full time, 4 years part time |
| 9 | Mode of Study (FT/PT/DL) | Full-time/Part time |
| 10 | Level of Award (FHEQ) | 6 |

| | | |
|----|--|----------------------------------|
| 11 | Other teaching depts or institution (if applicable) | N/A |
| 12 | Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (if applicable) | N/A <i>(include URL to PSRB)</i> |
| 13 | QAA Benchmark Group (if applicable) | History, Archaeology |

| | |
|----|---|
| 14 | Programme Rationale & Aims |
| | <p>The BA History and Archaeology Degree, leading to the BA Honours Degree of the University of London, is a structured programme of taught courses, designed to develop historical understanding and critical skills. The combination of History and Archaeology teaches students how to use a range of evidence, including textual and material remains, to explore the lives of people in the past. Study of these two distinct but interrelated disciplines provides a rounded view of ancient and medieval societies. Teaching includes lectures, seminars, and an archaeological field school.</p> <p>The main aims are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to enable students to develop and deepen their understanding of the conceptual and theoretical bases of the discipline, its methods of inquiry, its materials and common interpretations; 2. to offer students the opportunity to develop and deepen their skills of critical evaluation and analysis; and 3. to enable students to develop and extend their key skills as a foundation for personal development, employment or further academic study. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | 4. (for the part-time programme) to enable mature students in full-time employment to undertake undergraduate study in History and Archaeology, in fulfilment of the mission of the College; |
|--|--|

| | |
|----|--|
| 15 | Entry Criteria |
| | <p>Students normally require a minimum of 2 BS and a C at A-Level (or the UCAS points equivalent of 112), one of which should be in an appropriate subject. Students who fail to achieve these grades in A-Levels may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential. The UCAS tariff score is applicable where students have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> |

| | |
|----|---|
| 16 | Learning Outcomes |
| | <p>Students completing the BA History and Archaeology will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrated an ability to apply critically the main theories, concepts and approaches used in the discipline to the analysis of historical and archaeological topics 2. demonstrated knowledge and understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a variety of social, political, cultural and intellectual changes within specific periods and areas of the past b) the nature of historical and archaeological sources, their problems and potentials in providing us with knowledge of the past <p>and</p> (c) the shape of particular fields of historiography and archaeological theory, including the factors which influence different interpretations of the past <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. successfully completed an independent research project, in the form of a supervised dissertation, ideally making use of primary source materials 5. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities; and 6. developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently, managing time effectively, and, where they have so chosen, using information technology. |

| | |
|----|--|
| 17 | <p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subject being studied. Seminars mix tutor-led instruction with group discussion, depending on the attainment level. They allow students to explore issues in depth and there is an expectation that all students will participate actively by reading recommended texts in advance and offering questions and viewpoints to the group. Where students work in areas related to their course, their experiences enrich discussion. Both lectures and seminars are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key analytical skills. The BA History and Archaeology degree has been designed to guide and support students towards the attainment of the skills necessary to independent learning: by the end of their studies, students should be able to read critically, prioritise evidence, and present arguments coherently in written and oral forms.</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment are regularly reviewed in the light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports and peer monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by e-mail. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed coursebook for each course gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes, and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organisation and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students during the year.</p> <p><i>Assessment Methods:</i> A mixture of essays, reports, book reviews, and other written work and unseen written examinations across the taught modules.. Essays enable students to read around a particular facet of a subject in depth; examinations provide an opportunity to test students' grasp of a wide range of material within a reasonably short assessment procedure. All students must demonstrate basic proficiency in both examinations and coursework.</p> <p>Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The Department works closely with the Disability Office to enable all students to participate fully in our courses: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support</p> |
| 18 | <p>Programme Structure</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>The BA History and Archaeology programme consists of eleven modules. Students are required to undertake 20 days of fieldwork, usually delivered in part via our Fieldwork modules.</p> <p>The Compulsory Modules</p> |

There are three compulsory skills modules, one at level 4, one at level 5, and one at level 6.. They aim to provide students with the essential tools for undertaking historical study:

- Approaching the past (level 4): the module introduces students to the different methodologies in relation to the past, it provides basic training in study skills, and familiarity with assessment methods,. This is taught in year 1 for FT and PT students
- Exploring the past (level 5): provides an overview of the conceptual framework of historiographical discussion, and asks students to consolidate their learning on substantive modules by reflecting on specific historiographical issues. This is taught in year 2 for FT students and normally in year 3 for PT students.
- Dissertation (level 6) . This is a 60 credit module (double-weighted) The dissertation is completed in the final year of study. It aims to demonstrate that the student is capable of independent study. Students develop their own dissertation topics and carry out their own research, in collaboration with a supervisor. Students must normally obtain a pass in the dissertation in order to graduate.

There is also one compulsory fieldwork module:

Buried Humanities (level 4)

And a compulsory introductory module:

Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room (level 4): a compulsory introductory module, assessed by exam and coursework.

Option modules

- Level 4 modules (1st year modules) These introduce students to , broad time periods, a wide range of geographical areas, and essential themes. They are taught by a mixture of lecture and seminar. Full time students usually take one level 4 optional module. Part-time students usually take one optional Level 4 module in their second year. The modules are assessed by a combination of exams, essays, book reports, and source analysis.
- Level 5 modules (2nd year modules). These are more focussed modules, taught predominantly via seminar. They develop in greater depth the themes established at level 4 modules. Full time students will usually take two of these modules in their second year. PT students will take one of these modules in year 2 and one further in year 3. Level 5 modules are assessed by essays and examination.
- Level 6 modules (3rd year modules). These are highly focussed modules, which rely particularly on the analysis of primary source materials. FT students will take two of these modules in their 3rd year of study. PT students will take one module in year 3 and one further module in year 4. These modules are assessed by essays and examination.

There are a large variety of modules on offer within the degree, and for further information see the department's website: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history>

| 4 year part-time programme | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|---------|------------|
| Year 1 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 4 | HICL200S4 | Approaching the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC429S4 | Fieldschool: Buried Humanities | 30 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 5 | SSHC264S5 | Advanced Fieldschool: Buried Humanities or other option | 30 | Option |
| 4 | | Level 4 Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Level 5 Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 5 | SSHC407S5 | Exploring the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Level 5 Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Level 6 Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 4 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 6 | SSHC408D6 | Writing the Past: Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Level 6 Option | 30 | Option |
| 3 year full-time programme | | | | |
| Year 1 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 4 | HICL200S4 | Approaching the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC406S4 | Discovering Archaeology: From Field to Finds Room | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | SSHC429S4 | Fieldschool: Buried Humanities | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | | Level 4 Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 5 | SSHC264S5 | Advanced Fieldschool: Buried Humanities or other level 5 option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | SSHC407S5 | Exploring the Past | 30 | Compulsory |
| 5 | | Level 5 Option | 30 | Option |
| 5 | | Level 5 Option | 30 | Option |
| Year 3 | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 6 | SSHC408D6 | Writing the past: Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory |
| 6 | | Level 6 Option | 30 | Option |
| 6 | | Level 6 Option | 30 | Option |

| Indicative optional modules at level 4 | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|----|--------|
| 4 | SSHC404S4 | The Ancient World | 30 | Option |
| 4 | SSHC405S4 | The Archaeology of Greece and Rome | 30 | Option |
| 4 | TBC | The Medieval World | 30 | Option |
| 4 | SSHC413S4 | The Early Modern World | 30 | Option |
| 4 | SSHC411S4 | The Modern World | 30 | Option |
| 4 | SSHC412S4 | The Contemporary World | 30 | Option |
| Indicative optional modules at level 5 | | | | |
| 5 | HICL190S5 | From Ancient to Medieval Societies | 30 | Option |
| 5 | SSHC435S5 | Beginnings: the Archaeology of Prehistory | 30 | Option |
| 5 | SSHC437S5 | Between God and Rome: the Byzantine empire, 307-1453 | 30 | Option |
| 5 | SSHC410S5 | Journeys to the Underworld in classical Literature and culture | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC391S5 | Bioarchaeology | 30 | Option |
| Indicative optional modules at level 6 | | | | |
| 6 | HICL184S6 | The Athenian empire | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC362S6 | The Archaeology of Human Evolution | 30 | Option |
| 6 | HICL086S6 | Later Medieval and Early Modern London: Community Politics and Religion | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC350S6 | Crime, Poverty and Popular Protest in England, 1500-1800 | 30 | Option |
| 6 | HICL197S6 | Intimate Britain: Family, Society and Culture 1832-1918 | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC160S6 | Sexuality, Society and the State in Britain, 1914-2000 | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC393S6 | The Colonial Gaze: Western Perceptions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 1600-1960 | 30 | Option |
| 6 | HICL203S6 | The Empire of Letters: Correspondence in the Roman World | 30 | Option |
| 6 | HICL147S6 | The Third Reich | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC539S6 | The Archaeology of Early Medieval Britain | 30 | Option |
| 6 | SSHC540S6 | Stories in Stuff: the medieval and early modern worlds in 20 texts and objects | 30 | Option |

| | |
|----|---|
| 20 | Regulations |
| | <p>Admissions</p> <p>This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf</p> <p>These regulations require all students demonstrate proficiency in the English language to the satisfaction of the College.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Credit Transfer</p> <p>Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/AccreditedPriorLearning.pdf</p> <p>Codes of Conduct</p> <p>The Department adheres to the College code of student discipline: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/policies-1</p> <p>Programme Regulations</p> <p>This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations</p> <p>Programme Specific Regulations</p> <p>Regulations specific to the BA History and Archaeology degree can be found in the programme handbook: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/current-students/undergraduateresources</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|----|--|
| 21 | <p>Student Attendance Framework – in brief</p> <p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle</p> <p>Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation</p> <p>Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers</p> <p>All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.</p> |
|----|--|

| | |
|----|---|
| 22 | <p>Student Support and Guidance</p> <p>All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities</p> |
|----|---|

| | |
|----|--|
| 23 | <p>Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards</p> |
|----|--|

Year of entry: 2020/21

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality</p> |
|--|---|

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 24 | Programme Director | Dr Casper Meyer |
| 25 | Start Date <i>(term/year)</i> | September 1996 |
| 26 | Date approved by TQEC | 1996 |
| 27 | Date approved by Academic Board | 1996 |
| 28 | Date(s) updated/amended | March 2017 |