

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA History BA History with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UBAHISTO_C (4 year part time) UUBAHIST_C (3 year full time) UUBFHIST_C (4 year full time with foundation year) UBFHISTO_C (6 year part time with foundation year)
5	UCAS code	V100; V101 (with foundation year)
6	Home Departments	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 full time with foundation year, 4 years part time, 6 years part time with foundation year
9	Mode of Study	Part time and Full time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6

11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	History

14	Programme Rationale & Aims	
	<p>BA History</p> <p>The BA History at Birkbeck is a general History degree characterised by research-led teaching. This means that the breadth of topics on offer mirrors the research expertise of the staff, stretching from the ancient world to contemporary history, including the study of Britain, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Undergraduates are encouraged to choose options that reflect this breadth in terms of time periods and geographical areas, in preparation for more specialised study in their honours years. The degree also aims to demonstrate why history matters – and to encourage students to participate in the interpretation of history.</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, in fulfilment of the mission of the College; 	

	<p>BA History with Foundation Year</p> <p>For the BA History with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT or FT programmes. The curriculum for the ‘with foundation year’ programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme ‘with foundation year’ are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>BA History</p> <p>Students who have recently taken A-levels (or equivalent) will require a minimum of 1 B and two Cs (or UCAS tariff points of 104-120), one of which must be in History. 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.</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> <p>BA History with Foundation Year</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA History but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Foundation Year</p> <p>Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. <p>All modes of study:</p> <p>Students completing the BA History 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 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 sources, their problems and potentials in providing us with knowledge of the past <p>and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c) the shape of particular fields of historiographical discussion, including the factors which influence different interpretations of the past 3. successfully completed an independent research project, in the form of a supervised dissertation, ideally making use of primary source materials 4. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities; and 5. 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.
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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 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. Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The</p>
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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>

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Programme Structure

Description

The BA History programme consists of eleven modules.

The Compulsory Modules

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.
- *Writing the Past: Dissertation* (level 6). Double-weighted (60 credits) module.

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 three level 4 optional modules. Part-time students usually take two optional Level 4 modules in their first year, and one further 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 optional level 4 modules. Full time students will usually take three of these modules in their second year. PT students will take two 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>

BA History with Foundation Year

Students in the foundation year of the BA History with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3 in the foundation year. There are four core modules:

1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City
2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge
3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP

Year of entry: 2020/21

	<p>4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy</p> <p>Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA History with Foundation Year (subsequent years of the programme are the same as the 3-year full-time and 4-year part-time degree).</p>
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4 year part-time programme
Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Level 4 option	30	option
5		Level 5 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		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5		Level 5 option	30	option
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

BA History Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years)				
Foundation Year 0				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the past	30	Compulsory
5		Level 5 option	30	option
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
BA History with Foundation Year (Part-time 6 years)				
FOUNDATION Year (0a)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
FOUNDATION Year (0b)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	HICL200S4	Approaching the past	30	Compulsory
4		Level 4 option	30	option
4		Level 4 option	30	option

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Level 4 option	30	option
5		Level 5 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
Indicative List of options				
Optional modules at level 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSHC404S4	The Ancient World	30	Option
4	SSHC406S4	Discovering Archaeology: from field to finds room	30	Option
4	SSHC405S4	The Archaeology of Greece and Rome	30	Option
4	SSHC409S4	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
Optional modules at level 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	HICL190S5	From Ancient to Medieval Societies	30	Option
5	SSHC433S5	The Ottoman Empire	30	Option
5	SSHC434S5	Cultural Interaction in the Archaic Greek World	30	Option
5	SSHC435S5	Beginnings: The Archaeology of Prehistory	30	Option
5	SSHC436S5	Popular culture in American History, 1870 to the	30	Option
5	SSHC437S5	Between God and Rome: the Byzantine empire,	30	Option
5	SSHC438S5	Contested Nation: Germany 1871-1918	30	Option
5	SSHC439S5	Work and Play in Early Modern Britain	30	Option
5	SSHC440S5	Under the Volcano – the First and Last Days of	30	Option
5	SSHC410S5	Journeys to the Underworld in classical Literature and culture	30	Option
Optional modules at level 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSHC350S6	Crime, Poverty and Popular Protest in England,	30	Option
6	HICL197S6	Intimate Britain: Family, Society and Culture in Britain 1832-1918	30	Option
6	HICL086S6	Late Medieval and Early Modern London: Community Politics and Religion	30	Option

6	SSHC160S6	Sexuality, Society and the State in Britain, 1914-	30	Option
6	SSHC393S6	The Colonial Gaze: Western Perceptions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 1600-1960	30	Option
6	HICL184S6	The Athenian Empire	30	Option
6	HICL203S6	The Empire of Letters	30	Option
6	HICL147S6	The Third Reich	30	Option

¹⁹	<p>Regulations</p> <p>Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf</p> <p>Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf</p> <p>Codes of Conduct The Department adheres to the College code of student discipline: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/policies-1</p> <p>Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations</p> <p>Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) Information specific to the BA History degree can be found in the programme handbook: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/current-students/undergraduateresources It is essential that all BA History students familiarise themselves with the handbook's contents</p>
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²⁰	<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 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 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>
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	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.	
21	Student Support and Guidance	
	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/student-services	
22	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards	
	<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>	
23	Programme Director	Dr Fred Anscombe
24	Start date	Pre 1980
25	Date approved by TQEC	Pre 1980
26	Date approved by Academic Board	Pre 1980
27	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2020