

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Historical Research (Economic and Social History)				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSHISTO_C				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A				
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology				
7	Exit Award(s)	MSc [This is part of a 1+3 Doctoral Training Programme]				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year FT, 2 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution (Politics				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	N/A				
14	Programme Rationale & Aims					
	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>As part of the college's commitment to the ESRC DTP we need to offer all 1+3 ESRC-funded students training methods that meet the requirements of the ESRC's postgraduate research training guidelines. This proposed programme builds on the existing provision of an MA in Historical Research (TMAHISTO_C) in the department, to offer students with the advanced conceptual, theoretical and practical skills required for undertaking historical research at doctoral level, alongside the ESRC requirement of Intermediate Quantitative Methods.</p> <p>The proposed programme involves no new dedicated teaching, rather it draws upon existing modules in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy (in History, Classics and Archaeology and in Politics). The existing complement of modules, both compulsory and optional, provide students with a range of conceptual models and methods for archaeological research from prehistory to the middle ages, and over considerable geographical breadth. The inclusion of the compulsory module in Quantitative Social Research prepares students with the statistical skills needed for Economic and Social Research at the Postgraduate level. (ESRC students are required to take Intermediate Quantitative Social Research SSPO133S7.)</p> <p>Aims:</p>					

	<p>To provide specific Level 7 training for students undertaking PhD research in archaeology with an emphasis on quantitative methods. We expect these to be mostly students who are supported by the ESRC DTP, however, it may be that self-funded students or students with other funding also see the intellectual benefits of the provision, and so this will be open to enrolment beyond the DTP.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>Second-class honours degree in a humanities or social-sciences subject and references.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>[1-18 are identical to: MA Historical Research]</p> <p>Subject Specific</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an awareness of contemporary historical practice 2. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of historical documents and other forms of source material where appropriate 3. to use historical sources to form interpretations about past societies 4. to understand core debates within specific subject fields <p>Intellectual</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. the ability to carry out effective and critical evaluations of information, data and interpretations 6. the use of critical reasoning 7. the development of analytical skills 8. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information 9. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them <p>Practical</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with word processing and internet, and where appropriate with databases and spreadsheets 11. ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data 12. to carry out documentary-based research 13. to present findings both orally and in writing <p>Personal and Social</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. the ability to work successfully in teams 15. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis 16. to develop presentation skills 17. to develop organisational skills 18. to master time-management <p>Additionally,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. The ability to evaluate and analyse quantitative data for social research at intermediate level.

17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Learning is achieved through a balance of formal pedagogy and independent study, with an emphasis upon the latter, suitable to this level of study in a humanities subject. Teaching is done primarily via seminar group, with occasional lectures; and in one-to-one tutorials as and when necessary. Where appropriate, use is made of on-line resources including Moodle.</p> <p>Assessment is via written work, with a different essay for each module, and a substantial dissertation; Quantitative Social Research is assessed by 50% coursework+50% exam; and by a dissertation of 15,000 words. Candidates must take and pass the compulsory core course and dissertation, and take the compulsory module and optional modules in order to progress and to graduate. Students are permitted to retake a module if the performance in assessed coursework was inadequate in the first attempt. The final classification will be based upon all Level 7 modules, of which the dissertation is double weighted. All coursework is marked by the relevant module tutor and second marked by a member of the programme's teaching staff.</p>
18	Programme Description
	<p>The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the compulsory module 'Mastering Historical Research: Birkbeck Methods' in the first term of their degree and start the year-long compulsory module 'Intermediate Quantitative Social Research.' They then have a choice of a further two option modules (taken across two years for the part-time degree, or within one year for the full-time degree). There is also skills training in preparation for the dissertation in the first part of the summer term; students received one-to-one supervision for their dissertation research, and the dissertation is then submitted at the end of September in the year in which the degree is completed.</p> <p>Option modules for MSc Historical Research may include:</p> <p>Britain and Germany: The History of a Relationship, 1815-1990 SSHC390S7</p> <p>Cultural History of War in Britain and America between the First World War and the Conflict in Vietnam HICL218S7</p> <p>Darwin, Darwinism and the Modern Ages HICL195S7</p> <p>Death, Disease and Early Modern City HICL033S7</p> <p>Early Modern London: Society and Culture HICL046S7</p> <p>Jews and Antisemitism in Modern Europe: Histories and Approaches SSHC244S7</p> <p>Madness and its Meanings SSHC372S7</p> <p>Magic, Science and Religion in the Renaissance ENHU071S7</p> <p>Monastic Lives in Medieval England SSHC382S7</p> <p>Money and Empire c. 300-c. 800 SSHC377S7</p> <p>Politics and Islam HICL097S7</p> <p>Power and Communication in Europe, from the Reformation to Enlightenment HICL099S7</p> <p>Public Histories in Practice SSHC389S7</p> <p>Contested Past, Troubled Present: Britain and Ireland since 1800 - Religion in Society and Politics HICL255S7</p> <p>Renaissance Florence: Society, Religion and Culture HICL211S7</p>

Globalisation and The Rise of the Modern Consumer HICL135S7
The Two Irelands 1911-1998 SSHC351S7
The Victorian Communication Revolution HICL176S7
Venice and Istanbul, 1453-1797 SSHC392S7

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSPO133S7	Intermediate Quantitative Social Research	30	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Compulsory
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSPO133S7	Intermediate Quantitative Social Research	30	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Compulsory

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module.

20	Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • 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 • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A

21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief
	<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>Additionally, for the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, from 2016–17, there is an attendance requirement for all our modules. In order to pass a module you will now need to attend at least 60% of the classes. If you fail to attend 60% of the classes and you do not have a valid claim for mitigating circumstances, you will fail the module, even if you pass the assessment element for the module (exams or essays or both). For a list of valid mitigating circumstances, and the process of making a claim, see here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/mitcircspol.pdf</p> <p>Students should notify tutors in advance of any religious observances which will conflict with teaching sessions. Recognised religious holidays will not count as absences, but students MUST notify tutors in advance.</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	Student Support and Guidance
	<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	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>

Year of entry: 2020/21



24	Programme Director	Jessica Reinisch
25	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2017
26	Date approved by TQEC	December 2016 (Chair's Action)
27	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2017
28	Date(s) updated/amended	February 2017