

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| Name, title and level of final qualification(s) | Graduate Diploma Spanish and Latin American Studies (Level 6) |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s) | Grad Cert |
| Awarding Body | University of London |
| Teaching Institution(s) | Birkbeck, University of London |
| Home school/other teaching departments | Creative Arts, Culture and Communication |
| Location of delivery | Central London |
| Language of delivery and assessment | English and Spanish |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month | Full-time (1 years) Part-time (2 years) September |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body | N/A |
| QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England | Languages, Cultures and Societies |
| Birkbeck Course Code | GDGSLAMS_C |
| HECoS Code | 100325 (Spanish studies) 101199 (Latin American Studies) |
| Start date of programme | October 2016 |
| Date of programme approval | Autumn 2015 |
| Date of last programme amendment approval | April 2023 |
| Valid for academic entry year | 2024-25 |
| Programme Director | Maria Elena Placencia |
| Date of last revision to document | 28/04/2023 |

Admissions requirements

Applicants will normally have a first degree in an appropriate subject and will be expected to have language skills in Spanish equivalent to a high A-level or A-level + 1 year or C1 (CEFR)

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.

Course aims

This programme provides a one-year qualification in Spanish and Latin American Studies. It is also available part-time over 2 years. It is designed to appeal to two main groups of students:

- a) Those who wish to refresh their knowledge of Spanish and Latin American studies after a period of no contact with the area. As such, this programme would be suitable for language teachers, for example, with a BA in the corresponding language area.
- b) Those students from a variety of disciplines who wish to embark on our MA/MRes Modern Languages and Comparative Literatures programmes, who would like to familiarise themselves with the fields of cultural history and cultural critiques of Spain and Latin America. The programme will allow students to increase their knowledge of the above areas as well as improve their research and study skills. As such, this programme would also be suitable for international students seeking to do a year abroad, after completing an appropriate BA programme in their own country.

The programme will also allow students to work on their Spanish language skills at an advanced level

This is an undergraduate-level qualification that will prepare students for postgraduate study. Students study this programme one-year full-time or two-years part-time.

Course structure

Students need to obtain 120 credits at Level 6 for the award of this Graduate Diploma. The programme is taken over 1 year full-time or two years part-time and there are two Compulsory modules: a language module (Spanish 4 or Spanish 5) and Dissertation in Cultures and Languages. Students also choose two options from the available range of Level 6 modules.

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|--------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Full-time – 1 year | | | | | |
| 6 | ARIB134S6 or ARIB120S6 | Spanish 4 or 5 | 30 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | | Option (1x 30 or 2x 15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| 6 | | Option (1x 30 or 2x 15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| 6 | ARCL123S6 | Dissertation in Cultures and Languages | 30 | Compulsory | Completed in T3 |

| Part-time – 2 years | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|----|------------|-------------------------------|
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 6 | ARIB134S6 or ARIB120S6 | Spanish 4 or 5 | 30 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | | Option (1 x 30 or 2x 15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 6 | | Content option (1x30 or 2x15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| 6 | ARCL123S6 | Dissertation in Cultures and Languages | 30 | Compulsory | Completed by first week of T3 |
| Full-time and part-time students must take at least 60 credits from the Spanish 'content' modules and 30 credits from the relevant Spanish language modules, and the compulsory project. | | | | | |

Compulsory Spanish language module: Either ARIB134S6 Spanish 4 or ARIB120S6 Spanish 5 (Only one may be taken)

Indicative Content/Comparative Options

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| ARLL006S6 | Word and Image: Constructing the Other in the Hispanic World |
| LNLN054S6 | Space, Culture and Society in Brazil |
| LNLN041S6 | The Urban Experience in Brazil |
| ARCL057H6 | The Spanish Noir: Crime and Detection in Contemporary Fiction |
| ARCL034H6 | The Auteurist Tradition in Spanish Cinema |

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Learning and teaching methods vary between Language modules and 'Content' modules, but in all cases the programme builds on tried and tested methods, and the collective experience and expertise deployed in existing modules within the Department.

Language modules are taught using a variety of methods and materials from a wide range of media. Spanish 4 or 5 are the only language modules that form part of this programme. They are assessed through course work as well as oral and written in-class assessments.

Literature, culture and linguistics modules are taught in either English or Spanish. While different teaching methods are employed, normally a mixed-mode delivery is used: part lecture, part student activity either singly or in small groups, part open discussion. The range of methods deployed is effective in retaining students' attention after a day's work. Varied use is made of the full range of available support materials and technologies, including Moodle.

Supervised group and pair-work and short student presentations serve to vary the pace of classroom activity. Presentations also offer the opportunity for formative feedback, and may be used to prepare a written assignment.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

- For language classes, assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms as appropriate to the language-level of the module, including in-class tests, oral presentations, essays and other written tasks.
- Most level 6 content modules are assessed by means of essays aimed at fostering independent learning and the developing of appropriate research skills. Coursework is intended to facilitate students' learning by providing them with opportunities for professional applications as well as module-specific expertise. Through coursework assignments you are also given structured feedback throughout the year. You will be given clear assessment criteria early on in each of the modules so that you know what to expect and what aspects of your work will be evaluated.
- Dissertation in Culture and Languages is a research module that allows you to explore in depth a topic of your interest, under a lecturer's supervision.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

A. Use of the target language

1. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in Spanish, with competent or native speakers of Spanish.
2. Exploit for a variety of purposes a broad range of materials in written or spoken Spanish appropriate to the level attained.
3. Apply effectively and appropriately language skills in formal and informal contexts.

B. Explicit knowledge of language

4. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of Spanish.
5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse Spanish. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

C. Knowledge of related studies

6. Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate through appropriate methodologies one or more aspects of the literatures, linguistics, art, film, and cultural histories of the Spanish-speaking worlds.

D. Intercultural awareness and understanding

7. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies studied on the course.

E. Intellectual

8. Demonstrate analytical and critical skills and conceptual clarity.
9. Display an ability to work with theoretical arguments.
10. Display an ability to understand cultural forms within their socio-historical context.

F. Practical

See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:

11. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.
12. Use IT effectively, both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.

G. Personal and Social

13. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.
14. Be responsive to the discipline of working with others and to work effectively as part of a team.
15. Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in international organisations or business, translation, teaching, media and creative industries, research or journalism. Possible professions include:

- researcher
- journalist
- teacher
- translator
- academic librarian
- archivist.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the [careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies](#) published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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