

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MA Cities and Cultures
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	12 months full time/24 months part time
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L859/L850
QAA Benchmark Group	Geography
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	School of Geography

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

This programme explores the field of cultural geography through a specific focus on the cultural geographies of cities. Focusing upon urban cultures past and present, the programme draws upon the latest developments in cultural geography and urban studies to provide an advanced and critical understanding of how cities are socially produced, imagined, represented and contested. It engages with original texts, the built environment, art practices, literature, music and film that have informed thinking about urban spaces and cultures and shaped the meanings and politics of space in diverse cities.

Aims of the Programme

This programme aims to:

- Explore the field of cultural geography with a specific focus on the cultural geographies of cities.
- Provide an advanced and critical understanding of how urban spaces are socially produced, imagined, represented and contested, past and present.
- Provide a sound conceptual base as well as suitable practical training to carry out research on cities and cultures through the

provision of core research training in methods and methodologies as well as ways of thinking geographically.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

You will be expected to achieve an advanced level of knowledge and understanding of scholarship in cultural geography and related fields focusing on the cultural geographies of cities and intellectual, analytical and methodological skills of engaging with urban spaces and cultures.

Academic Content:

A 1	knowledge and understanding of the nature of the cultural geographies of cities
A 2	knowledge and understanding of how urban spaces and cultures are socially produced, imagined, represented and contested in diverse ways
A 3	knowledge and understanding of how cities have evolved historically over time and in contested ways
A 4	knowledge and understanding of how cities can be interpreted through a range of mediums including the built environment, art practices, and literature
A 5	knowledge and understanding of the ways the meaning and politics of spaces in diverse cities can be analysed

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	plan, design and execute a piece of advanced level rigorous research or enquiry, including project design, project planning, project management, and analytical and interpretive skills
B 2	critically assess knowledge of cities and cultures recognising how cities are culturally and socially produced, imagined, represented and contested
B 3	work confidently and critically with a range of different sources and materials for studying the contested processes and politics of urban space in diverse cities
B 4	develop advanced level knowledge of a range of data sources relevant for exploring issues linked with cities and cultures and be able to carry out applied research.

Attributes:

C 1	be able to read critically
C 2	demonstrate advanced written communication skills
C 3	demonstrate advanced oral communication and presentation skills
C 4	be able to do interpersonal working, including working with groups/teams and recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others

C5	be able to do information handling and retrieval (including, identifying, retrieving, sorting and exchanging information, drawn from a wide range of sources – including online databases, archives and other resources).
C6	to have heightened motivation, dedication, the ability to work autonomously and with others, critical self-awareness and self-management, empathy and insight, intellectual integrity, initiative and personal responsibility, interest in life-long learning, flexibility, adaptability and creativity

How Will You Learn?

This programme is taught by members of academic staff in the School of Geography mainly by members of the School's Culture, Space and Power research theme. The School of Geography is committed to developing, maintaining and supporting excellence in teaching and learning, to innovation in teaching practice, and to fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students, whilst providing appropriate levels of support to students in their learning.

The majority of teaching and learning takes place through:

- small group, participatory seminars with a member of academic staff who has research expertise in the programme's subject area. Sessions will normally be based around the discussion of pre-circulated readings, where students will have the opportunity to shape the direction and content of debate. Indeed, seminars will offer students an open, democratic, flexible and supportive learning environment.

Seminars are supplemented by a range of other teaching methods including:

- student-led conference presentations
- field visits

There is also a substantial component of private study and reading.

Learning will be supported by:

- coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module, identifying the structure and pathway of each module
- the provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- individual feedback on written work
- appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists
- encouraging active participation by students in small group discussions
- research methods training
- appropriate use of AV teaching technologies

Students have access to a wide range of learning resources within the College. These include: the College Library, the University of London Library at Senate House and the first rate resources of other libraries with London collections (e.g. the British Library); a range of IT resources including networked PCs (with full internet and email privileges), and electronic learning resources (e.g. electronic academic journals) as well as a dedicated masters student room in the School of Geography.

All students are allocated a supervisor with whom they will meet on a regular, one-to-one basis throughout the module. Supervisors will have some expertise in the student's proposed area of dissertation research and may be drawn from across the School. Each student will receive individual supervisions, lasting at least 30 minutes, one time in Semester A, four times in Semester B and four times in the summer term and vacation. While primarily supporting the student in his or her dissertation research, the supervisor will also provide more general academic help, guidance and feedback. A 'Supervision Record Sheet' will be completed after each meeting and the student and supervisor will jointly fill in a 'Progress Report' at the end of each semester, identifying key achievements as well as any problems that need resolving.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment will take a number of forms within the programme. Forms of assessment include:

- 15,000 word dissertation
- dissertation proposal to be presented at a student conference day
- extended essays (usually of 5,000 words). Seeking the approval of the module convenor, the exact focus of the essay will often

Programme Title: MA Cities and Cultures

be determined by the student's own module-related interests

Formative feedback on drafts of assessed essays will be provided in certain modules via a student conference day. Essay plans for other modules may be discussed in a coursework workshop. There will be no examinations

How is the Programme Structured?

The programme is made up of 180 credits and is structured around a set of core, compulsory and optional modules. Students registered for an MA Cities and Cultures complete a 15 000 word dissertation (Mode C, 60 credits, core); two compulsory modules: Geographical Thought and Practice (30 credits, compulsory) and Cities, Space and Power (30 credits) and then choose from the following electives: Cultural Geography in Practice (30 credits), Advanced Readings in Geography (30 credits) and Art, Performance and the City (30 credits).

It is possible to replace one of the specialist modules above by one other approved module from QMUL in consultation with the Programme Convenor.

Part time students will take the two compulsory modules (Art, Performance and the City; City, Space and Power) and one option module in the first year of their study. In their second year they will undertake the research training module (Geographical Thought and Practice) and the dissertation module (although it is likely that they will commence work on their dissertation during the first year of study).

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation 15,000 Words	GEG7107	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3
Geographical Thought and Practice	GEG7120	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Advanced Readings in Geography	GEG7101	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study 1

Programme Title: MA Cities and Cultures

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Cultural Geogaphy in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Advanced Readings in Geography	GEG7101	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Geographical Thought and Practice	GEG7120	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Dissertation 15,000 words	GEG7107	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3

What Are the Entry Requirements?

As they appear in the School Handbook/College prospectus. Normally at least an upper second class undergraduate degree or equivalent experience. IELTS 7.0 is required for non-native speakers of English.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the

school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

Students receive academic support via regular meetings with their advisor and via the programme director, module lecturers and attendance at research-related events in both Schools.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

None

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The programme provides a deep understanding of the nature of cultural geographies of cities both in the past and present as well as developing a range of advanced analytical and research skills. This knowledge and experience will have transferable value in the labour market.

Graduates would be especially well equipped to pursue careers in the field of metropolitan arts and cultural sectors. It is also envisaged that the research experience in the programme would provide a suitable basis for undertaking PhD research and, therefore, as a stepping stone to an academic career.

Graduate skills and qualities

In terms of transferable knowledge and skills, an MA Cities and Culture graduate will:

- have a detailed, interdisciplinary knowledge of urban cultural geography
- be familiar with how urban spaces and cultures are socially produced, imagined, represented and contested in diverse way
- be able to understand how cities can be interpreted through a range of mediums including the built environment, art practices, and literature

Programme Title: MA Cities and Cultures

- have an advanced level of understanding of the ways meaning and politics of spaces in diverse cities can be analysed
- be familiar with, and work confidently and critically with a range of different sources and materials for studying processes of urban cultural change
- have a range of advanced level research skills including: project design, project planning, project management, and analytical and interpretive skills
- be a confident oral and written academic communicator
- be a confident independent learner, thinker and worker
- be able to work in a group situation, showing empathy and sensitivity for the views of others, but with the ability to interact confidently and persuasively

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Professor Catherine Nash and Dr Kavita Datta

Person responsible for management of programme

Dr Kavita Datta

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

28 Oct 2014

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**