

Programme Title: MA London Studies



## 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 London Studies
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)	L8Q1/L8Q2
QAA Benchmark Group	Geography
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	School of Geography

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

School of English & Drama

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

### Programme Outline

The programme provides an advanced understanding of different perspectives and approaches to understanding metropolitan urbanism and modernity through the example of London.

### Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide an advanced understanding of different perspectives and approaches to understanding metropolitan urbanism and modernity;
- Consider, through the example of London, how urban cultures are experienced, represented and contested;

• Provide students with a sound conceptual base as well as suitable practical training to carry out research on London, introducing them to resources in the city as well as ways using them intelligently and creatively.

### What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

#### Academic Content:

A 1	to critically understand recent influential writing on cities and modernity, especially that which relates to London;
A 2	the ways in which London acts as a centre of cultural production and identity formation;
A 3	the ways in which metropolitan space is experienced, represented and contested.
A 4	the geographical, historical and political processes inherent in the ways in which cities such as London have developed and changed.

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	planning, designing and executing a piece of advanced level rigorous research or enquiry, including project design, project planning, project management, and analytical and interpretive skills
B 2	critically assessing interdisciplinary knowledge of cultural life in London both past and present relating to advanced theoretical ideas about cities, modernity and metropolitan urbanism
B 3	recognising the variety of different approaches to understanding metropolitan cultural life and their epistemological foundations
B 4	working confidently and critically with, a range of different sources and materials for studying metropolitan cultural life
B 5	developing advanced level knowledge of a range of London-based archives, libraries, museums and other repositories with collections relating to the cultural life of the city

#### Attributes:

C 1	be able to read critically
C 2	demonstrate good written communication skills
C 3	demonstrate good oral communication and presentation skills
C 4	undertake effective participatory and group work

C5	be able to organise, initiate and lead group discussions
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## How Will You Learn?

This interdisciplinary programme is taught by members of academic staff in the School of Geography, the School of Politics and the School of English and Drama with Geography taking the lead. As a result, the programme is taught in accordance with the School of Geography's Teaching and Learning Strategy. 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 module'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.

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

- site visits (to museums and archives)
- field walks
- student-led conference presentations

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 and defining 'essential reading' and 'further reading'.
- 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, the Bishopsgate Institute); a range of IT resources including networked PCs (with full internet and email privileges), and electronic learning resources (e.g. electronic academic journals). In addition students have access to 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 programme. Supervisors will have expertise in the student's proposed area of dissertation research and may be drawn from any of the three collaborating Schools in the programme. 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?

Aside from the 15,000 word dissertation, assessments in most other modules will take the form of extended essays (usually of between 4,000 and 5,000 words).. Forms of assessment include:

- 15,000 word dissertation
- dissertation proposal to be presented at a student conference day
- extended essays (usually of between 4,000 and 5,000 words). Seeking the approval of the module convenor, the exact focus of the essay will often 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.

There will be no examinations.

### How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

The programme is made up of modules totalling 180 credits structured around a set of core, compulsory and optional modules. Students registering for an MA London Studies must take the compulsory module Cities, Space and Power (30 credits) and complete a 15,000 word Dissertation (Mode C, 60 credits, core). They must also complete a programme of non-assessed research training drawn from modules taught by the School of English and Drama and the School of Geography\*. They can then choose three specialist modules from the following: Art, Performance and the City (30 credits), Sociability, Literature and the City (30 credits), Metrointellectuals, 1770-1820: British Women Writers in London and Paris (30 credits) (30 credits), Empire Race and Immigration (30 credits), Urban Culture and the Book (30 credits); Writing the East End (30 credits) and History and Theory of Community Organising (30 credits). In place of one of these option modules (and with the approval of the programme convenor and the relevant module convenor), they are also permitted to select up to one 30 credits module from elsewhere in the Humanities and Social Sciences Sector. London Studies students might potentially be interested in Modernism and After (offered by the School of English and Drama, which further considers debates about modernity) and Theories and Typologies II (offered by the School of Politics and International Relations, which explores the social, political and cultural implications of migrant settlement in Britain and Europe). Part time students will normally undertake the research training in the first year of their study along with the compulsory module (Cities, Space and Power) and two option modules. In their second year they will register for the dissertation module and one other option module (although it is likely that they will commence work on their dissertation during the first year of study).

\* This will be comprised from elements of Introduction to Social Science Research Methods (delivered via the DTC taught jointly by the School of Geography at Queen Mary and Goldsmiths) and London Panoramas: Sources and Archives for Researching London (taught by the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London), tailored to meet the students' specific training needs.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation	GEG7107	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Resources for Research	ESH7046	0	7	Study only	1	Semester 1
Writing the East End	ESH7038	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Metropolitan Matters: A material history of London from the Victorians to the present	HST7616	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Victorian Print Culture	ESH7011	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Writing the East End	ESH7038	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Metropolitan Matters: A material history of London from the Victorians to the present	HST7616	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Victorian Print Culture	ESH7011	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation	GEG7107	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Resources for Research	ESH7046	0	7	Study only	2	Semester 1

**What Are the Entry Requirements?**

As they appear in the 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

N/A

### 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)

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- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The programme provides a deep understanding of key aspects of the cultural history and contemporary cultural life of London as well as developing a range of advanced analytical and research skills. This knowledge and experience will have considerably transferable value in the labour market. However, graduates would be especially well equipped to pursue careers in the metropolitan arts and cultural sectors. It is also envisaged that the research training offered by 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 London Studies graduate will..

- have a detailed, interdisciplinary knowledge of cultural life in London and be able to work with advanced theoretical ideas relating to cities and metropolitan urbanism
- be familiar with, and work confidently and critically with, a range of different sources and materials for studying metropolitan cultural life
- have knowledge of a range of London-based archives, libraries, museums and other repositories with collections relating to the cultural life of the city
- 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**

Dr Alastair Owens 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**