

Programme Title: PGCert 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	PGCert London Studies
Name of Interim Award(s)	n/a
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	9 months FT; 2 years PT
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L8Q8
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	n/a
Date Programme Specification Approved	February 2015
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

n/a

### Programme Outline

London has long been an international centre of cultural production and political power. This interdisciplinary programme takes the city as its focus, using London as a central example, resource and inspiration. It is taught collaboratively, drawing on expertise from the School of Geography and from the School of English and Drama. The programme brings together historical and contemporary perspectives on metropolitan culture through approaches that span the humanities and social sciences, and through engaging with urban history and theory, literature, art practice, performance, exhibitions, the built environment and more.

This programme:

- provides a sound conceptual base as well as suitable practical training to conduct independent research on London, introducing resources in the city and ways of using them intelligently and creatively
- makes the most of Queen Mary's location in the East End, being close to key cultural resources and institutions as well as in an area whose historical changes and current transformations provide a focus for study and debate
- involves working with a range of London-based archives, libraries, museums and other repositories with collections relating to the cultural life of the city, while exploring the practices of museums, institutions, artists and others working beyond the academy.

## 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?

At the end of this programme students should be able to:

### Academic Content:

A 1	understand recent influential writing on cities and social theory, especially that which relates to London
A 2	understand the ways in which London acts as a centre of cultural production and identity formation
A 3	understand the ways in which metropolitan spaces is experienced, represented and contested
A 4	understand processes of urban cultural and social change, particularly in a London context

### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	critically assess interdisciplinary knowledge of cultural life in London both past and present and relate it to advanced theoretical ideas about cities, modernity and metropolitan urbanism
B 2	recognise the variety of different approaches to understanding metropolitan cultural life and their epistemological foundation
B 3	develop and advanced 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	Ability to engage critically with knowledge
C 2	Ability to learn continuously in a changing world
C 3	Develop research capacity and information expertise

## How Will You Learn?

Teaching eaching 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.
- site visits (to museums and archives)
- field walks
- student-led presentations

There is also a substantial component of private study and reading. Their individual study time could be spent preparing for, or following up on formal study sessions; reading; producing written work and completing projects.

Learning will be supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module handbooks/on-line course areas, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module, and 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
- Encouraging active participation by students in small group discussions
- Research methods training
- Appropriate use of e-learning technologies

## How Will You Be Assessed?

Forms of assessment include:

- Short assignments and reviews (typically between 1500-2000 words)
- 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.
- There will be no examinations

## How is the Programme Structured?

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

Full time students:

Will take the following compulsory modules GEG7123 Cities, Space and Power (30 credits) WASM018 Resources for Research (unassessed) and any other module for the list of options below (NB this might be a Semester A or Semester B module).

Part time students:

Will take the compulsory Modules GEG7123 Cities, Space and Power (30 credits) WASM018 Resources for Research in their first year of study. In their second year they will take any other module for the list of options below (NB this might be a Semester A or Semester B module).

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Resources for Research	ESH7046	0	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Writing the East End	ESH7038	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Metropolitan Matters: A material history of London from the Victorians to the present	HST7616	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Victorian Print Culture	ESH7300	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Cities, Space and Power	GEG7123	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Resources for Research	WASM018	0	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
Art, Performance and the City	GEG7102	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Writing the East End	ESH7038	30		Elective	2	Semester 2
Metropolitan Matters: A material history of London from the Victorians to the present	HST7616	30		Elective	2	Semester 1
Victorian Print Culture	ESH7300	30		Elective	2	Semester 1

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

#### Entry requirements

An upper second class honours degree or higher in a humanities or social science subject from a UK university (or an equivalent international qualification) together with two supportive references is required. Candidates are expected to have good English language ability and to meet the standard of the IELTS, or equivalent, at a level of 7.0. For students who do not meet language or scholarly requirements it might be possible for them to undertake foundation or pre-sessional programmes that will prepare them for the masters programme.

Candidates who do not meet these criteria but have relevant work experience will be considered and are encouraged to contact the programme convenor.

### How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the schools and their students. The committee consists of student representatives from all taught programmes together with appropriate representation from staff within the school. 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 operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, which advises the School 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 consideration of student surveys.

All schools 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'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 PTES and module evaluations.

### Academic Support

Students receive academic support via regular meetings with their advisor and via 'London Studies tutorials' with the programme director. Module convenors hold office hours where students are able to seek support and help. Appointments can be made to see teaching staff at others times. PGCert students are also encouraged to attend relevant research seminars. Queen Mary offers a range of other forms of academic support, e.g. in relation to academic writing.

## 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)
- 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 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. Some of the elective modules (e.g. Cultural Geography in Practice; Art, Performance and the City) involve work and collaboration with London-based arts organisations, and cultural and heritage institutions. It is also envisaged that the research training offered by the programme would provide a suitable basis for undertaking an MA programme

Graduate skills and qualities

In terms of transferable knowledge and skills, a PGCert 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 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
- 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

Programme Title: PGCert London Studies

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Alastair Owens

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

25 February 2015

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

February 2015