

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching institution (if different from above):	
Name of the final award and Programme title:	M.A. in Comparative Literature
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	1 year FT 2 years PT
JAX code:	Q200
QAA Benchmark Group	
Academic Department/s involved in programme delivery	School of Languages, Linguistics & Film for individual modules: Dept. of English (SED) and Dept. of History

If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit, approximate date of next visit and details of exemptions that will be given to QMUL graduates.	
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Criteria for admission to the programme
1. First or High II,1 at B.A. in related fields in the humanities or social sciences (such as Comparative Literature, a foreign language, English, Philosophy, Classics, History, Cultural Geography &c.).

2. Initially knowledge of one or more foreign languages would be desirable but not be required. Hopefully within two years we could make proficiency in at least one language other than English a prerequisite.

Aims of the programme

The programme aims

to provide students in a systematic way with a critical awareness of the scope and breadth of Comparative Literature and contemporary issues relating to this field;

to introduce them to various theoretical and cultural discourses;

to provide them with competence in employing research methodology;

to refine students' writing and communication skills;

to open vistas of cultural understanding through interrelations of literatures, philosophy and the arts;

to prepare them to pursue a research degree should they so wish.

Learning outcomes for the programme

Students

will have acquired or refined the ability to move with facility across national boundaries, theoretical discourses and intermedial comparison;

will possess familiarity with the historical developments and current issues in Comparative Literature and Comparative Cultural Studies;

will be well-positioned to deal with and articulate complex cultural issues arising from their studies;

will possess a heightened sense of self-confidence in pursuing independent enquiry;

will have written a substantial dissertation with regular and appropriate supervision for choosing a topic and executing the project;

will be in a position to draft a robust project outline for a Ph.D. should they so wish;

will possess complementing transferable skills for the critical evaluation of complex challenges, which in turn would promote further professional development.

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

Teaching will be conducted in seminars with guided reading in an atmosphere of discussion and exchange of ideas. A substantial component of private study and reading will complement the seminars. Where appropriate, instructors may incorporate visits, for example, to museums, galleries or libraries.

All modules will be assessed by essays with a length of 4000 words (core course: 2x 4000 words). The dissertation will have a length of 10,000-15,000 words.

The dissertation:

The articulated topic will be finalised and agreed by the end of semester B with the student's adviser and the supervisor of the project. In regular, pre-arranged meetings the supervisor and often also the advisor will guide the student's research and writing.

Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and modules

The MA requires a total of 180 credits distributed as follows:

Over 1 year:

Core Course (60 credits over two semesters)

2 modules (30 + 30 credits)

Dissertation (60 credits)

Over 2 years:

year 1: Core course (60 credits) + 1 module in either semester A or B (30 credits)

year 2: 1 module in either semester A or B (30 credits) + dissertation (60 credits)

One module from the present list of modules may be taken outside SLLF. PT students may only take an outside module in year 2 of study.

Modules offered:

The curriculum would be based and organised in the department of Comparative Literature in the SLLF and would initially offer a core course and 2 modules:

Cultures of Comparison – The Theory of Practice (core course) [new]

Key Concepts in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism [new]

Novels Behaving Badly [co-opted from MA in Identity and Representation]

Thinking Translation [co-opted from MA in AGCR]

Orientalism in European Literature [from 2011/12]

The Myth of Orpheus [from 2011/12]

Space and Place in Children's Literature [from 2011/12]

Freedom and the Passions in Early Modern Literature and Philosophy [from 2011/12]

Selected existing modules in SLLF will be accessible to students:

Anglo-German Travel Writing (MA in AGCR)

In Pursuit of Prejudice? Mutual perceptions of Identity (MA in AGCR)

Anglo-German Aesthetics in the 'Long' Eighteenth Century (MA in AGCR)

History, Fiction, Memory in French Cinema (MA in Film Studies)
Reading Images: Painting, Photography, Film (MA in Film Studies)

The French Avantgarde (MA in French Culture and History) [from 2011/12]

Outside SLLF:

Romantic Manifestos (Paul Hamilton, School of English & Drama)
[agreed with Paul Hamilton and Michele Barrett, Chair of SED]

European Jewish Literature (Leo Baeck Institute)
[agreed with Daniel Wildmann, Deputy Director of LBI, and Virginia Davis, Chair of History]

Possible pathways:

Various pathways are conceivable, depending on the modules available in any given year, hence what follows is exemplary and tentative. It is important to note that advisers are to assist the students in shaping such pathways in a disciplined fashion so as to avoid incoherent combinations; the combination of modules would go hand in hand with the topic of the dissertation.

Cultural identity

In Pursuit of Prejudice? Mutual perceptions of Identity
Orientalism in European Literature
European Jewish Literature
Thinking Translation
+ dissertation

Confrontations with the Other

Anglo-German Travel Writing
Romantic Manifestos
Anglo-German Aesthetics in the 'Long' Eighteenth Century
+ dissertation

Imagined Worlds

The Myth of Orpheus
Space and Place in Children's Literature
History, Fiction, Memory in French Cinema
+ dissertation

Jewish Writing before and after the Shoah

European Jewish Literature
History, Fiction, Memory in French Cinema
+ dissertation

Mediation and Translation

Reading Images: Painting, Photography, Film
Thinking Translation
+ dissertation

Literature and Philosophy

Anglo-German Aesthetics in the 'Long' Eighteenth Century
Freedom and the Passions in Early Modern Literature and Philosophy
In Pursuit of Prejudice? Mutual perceptions of Identity
+ dissertation

Quality assurance mechanism (please include details of: SSLC meetings, student feedback mechanisms, personal tutor arrangements, programme induction, programme review and monitoring.)

Programme management is in line with existing School structures, which include the SLLF Graduate Studies Committee, the SSLC and the MA Examination Board. Academic advisers will be in dialogue with students to assure focus and coherence, monitor student progress, and guide students' academic trajectories.

Although no dedicated module on research methods and writing skills is planned, aspects of this area are to be included in the core course. In addition, students will be expected to attend appropriate workshops to enhance research skills (either through ESD or the successor to the present offerings in the Graduate School).

Employers Links

Please provide details of any links with employers e.g.

- **Details of advisory panels that include current or potential employers;**
- **Organisations that regularly employ graduates from this programme and the roles that graduates undertake.**
- **Student prizes donated by organisations that may offer employment to graduates from this programme.**

If there are no links with employers consider the learning outcomes and transferable skills and explain how these might be used to inform employers about the qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have.

As with numerous MAs in the Humanities, the MA in Comparative Literature offers transferable skills which allow students' career paths to lead to areas requiring analytical and writing skills such as law, civil service, teaching, management or research-intensive consultation. Such skills become highly germane for the critical evaluation of complex challenges, and this in turn would promote further and on-going professional development.

Person Completing Programme Specification	Prof. Leonard Olschner
Person responsible for management of programme	Prof. Leonard Olschner

Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee	
Date of approval by Faculty Board/SMD Education Board	
Date of update/amendment	