

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution:	QMUL
Teaching institution (if different from above):	
Name of the final award and Programme title:	MA in Islam and the West
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	Full time = 1 calendar year; Part time = 2 calendar years
UCAS code:	
QAA Benchmark Group	
Academic Department/s involved in programme delivery	History, Politics, English and Drama, SLLF, Law

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.	N/A
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<b>Criteria for admission to the programme</b>
Normally an upper-second class honours degree or equivalent in History or other relevant Humanities subject, together with two supportive academic references. A recognised equivalent from an accredited overseas institution or an equivalent

professional qualification is also accepted. No foreign language skills are required.

Applications from mature and 'non-traditional' students are welcomed and will be treated sympathetically. Applicants who are not currently undertaking a degree or who have not done so in the last five years would not be required to send in academic references but might be asked to provide examples of written work and/or be interviewed.

### **Aims of the programme**

The programme aims to provide a flexible but intellectually coherent course of study on Islam and the West. Specifically it aims:

- To introduce students to the fundamentals of relations between Islam and the West in the medieval, early modern and modern eras by examining a broad spectrum of contacts (political, military, devotional, social, cultural, intellectual, economic, legal, demographic and linguistic).
- To train students in specialist subjects related to the programme, such as the Crusades, the Mamluks, medieval and early modern Iberia, migration, colonialism and western involvement in the Middle East
- To enhance advanced analytical and critical thinking
- To stimulate students to develop critical approaches to historiography and sources
- To provide a methodological and conceptual framework for more specialised research in the dissertation.

### **Learning outcomes for the programme**

In completing the programme, students will be able to demonstrate:

- A broad and systematic understanding of the history of contact between Islam and the West from the seventh century to the modern day
- Specialised knowledge of the ways in which relations between Islam and the West have been researched and written about over the last century
- A conceptual understanding that enables them to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
- To evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses
- An ability to write coherently about key historical topics and to communicate their conclusions clearly
- An ability to identify relevant sources, both primary and secondary, to analyse them and to formulate sustained arguments based upon them
- Mastery of appropriate practical skills, such as compiling bibliographies, using footnote references and, where appropriate, handling relevant visual and quantitative sources
- An ability to research and write a dissertation in such a way as to make a contribution to scholarly understanding in this field.

## **Teaching, learning and assessment strategies**

### **Islam and the West Core Course (Level 7, 30 Credit Course)**

- The Islam and the West Core Course is taught as a one semester weekly two hour seminar (with some classes containing a short lecture element to introduce or overview topics).
- The course is team taught, with specialists in their respective fields from History, Politics, SLLF, English and Law leading selected classes, while the Programme Director attends all classes (and in most cases co-teaches) to ensure continuity of approach and content.
- The Core Course also introduces the students to a range of essential Research Skills (including independent research, citation and oral presentation) through the completion and formative assessment of a series of skills exercises directly related to the academic content of the Core Course
- The Core Course is assessed by one 5,000 word essay
- To cultivate a continuing sense of collective identity amongst the students enrolled in the MA Programme once the Core Course has been completed, they will be strongly encouraged to attend QMUL' s new research seminar on Islam and the West in the Spring and Summer semesters

### **Additional Level 7, 30 Credit Courses**

- Students will take three additional Level 7, 30 Credit Courses (one in the Autumn Semester and two in the Spring Semester)
- These courses are taught (in the main) as weekly two hour seminars
- Each course is assessed by course work totalling 5,000 words (coursework will be submitted to the organising department with marks then returned to the Programme Director)
- Students will also be able to select other Level 7, 30 Credit courses taught at QMUL and/or one course of similar weighting taught elsewhere within the University of London

In the academic year 2010-11 students courses offered to students will include:

- CRSM012: Saladin, Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade
- HST7300: Britain in the Middle East, 1900-1960
- POLM008 Migration, Diasporas and Law I and II
- The Mamluks\*

In the academic year 2011-12 students two additional courses will come online:

- International Relations of the Middle East: Islam, Imperialism and State Formation (Course proposal attached) taught by Toby Dodge
- Medieval and Early Modern Iberia (Course proposal to be submitted by Rosa Vidal Doval)

### **Dissertation**

Students will research and write one 15,000 word dissertation

Each student will be supervised by a member of the teaching staff, although in some cases joint supervision between two academics may be considered

The progress of dissertation research will be monitored via the following timetable:

**January:** In mid January students will receive a form asking them to give a brief outline of their proposed dissertation topic. This form must be returned to the Programme Director by a date set in early February.

**February:** The Islam and the West MA Management Committee will review the forms and advise on the appropriate supervisor for the proposed topic.

**March:** Students will be contacted by the designated supervisor to discuss the topic in more detail.

**Early May:** Students will provide a one-page summary of their progress in preparing the dissertation including a list of the key themes they hope to cover and a working bibliography. This will be submitted to Programme Director and their supervisor.

**June:** Students will attend a dissertation workshop where they will be required to give a short presentation on their dissertation, and will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with other students on the course and the attending panel of academics.

**Mid August:** A fixed date will be given to students to mark the final point by which they can submit a partial draft of their dissertation for feedback from their supervisor (with a copy also sent to the Programme Director). They will receive feedback on this draft within two weeks.

**September:** Final submission of Dissertation to History Department

#### **Language**

Students will be offered the chance to bid for a language bursary to enable them to undertake non-assessed language study, drawing upon courses already offered by SLLF and History.

#### **Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and modules**

Students enrolled in this Taught MA Programme will take:

- **FOUR one semester Level 7, 30 Credit Courses** (the one semester Core Course and three one semester options)
- **Research and write ONE 60 Credit Dissertation.**

All students will take the Level 7, 30 Credit Core Course taught in the Autumn Semester

- **Islam and the West\***

Students will then take three additional Level 7, 30 Credit Courses. A selection of the courses most closely associated with the MA Programme is listed below, but students will also be able to select other Level 7 30 Credit courses taught at QMUL and/or one course of similar weighting taught elsewhere within the University of London.

- **CRSM012: Saladin, Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade**
- **CRSM004: The Latin East**
- **HST7300: Britain in the Middle East, 1900-1960**

- POLM008 Migration, Diasporas and Law I and II
- The Mamluks\*
- Medieval and Early Modern Iberia\*
- International Relations of the Middle East: Islam, Imperialism and State Formation\*

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

- Taught Postgraduate students are represented at the Department of History's regular SSLC meetings
- All students complete Course Evaluation Questionnaires at the end of each taught component of the Programme. These are then reviewed by the Programme Director and the relevant teaching staff.
- At the start of the Autumn Semester students will attend the general History Department PGT induction, followed by a further induction meeting specific to the Islam and the West Programme
- Each student will be allocated an academic adviser, selected from the teaching team
- Students will also be able to seek assistance from the Department of History's Student Support Manager
- The QMUL Islam and the West Research Seminar will also serve as a regular, informal meeting point for all students enrolled in the Programme
- A Programme Director will be appointed for a three year term
- Issues of management, academic coherence and progression will be monitored by the Islam and the West MA Management Committee, made up on the Programme Director, Director of Administration in History, and at least three member of the academic teaching team. The committee will meet once a semester and report to the History PGT committee.
- Progression and examining will be monitored and administered by the PGT History Subject Exam Board.

#### **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.

The MA in Islam and the West will furnish students with an enhanced understanding of relations between the Muslim world and the West across fourteen centuries of history, while providing a firm grounding in research methodologies and practices for those intending to pursue doctoral work. By teaching transferable skills valued in the market place, such as analysis of complex arguments, openness to a variety of viewpoints, researching and locating sources, oral and written presentation of arguments and information, and effective time-management, it will also be an asset to those students wishing to pursue careers in teaching, economy, media, NGOs or government agencies.

<b>Person Completing Programme Specification</b>	Tom Asbridge
<b>Person responsible for management of programme</b>	Tom Asbridge
<b>Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee</b>	
<b>Date of approval by Faculty Board/SMD Education Board</b>	12th May 2010
<b>Date of update/amendment</b>	