

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching institution (if different from above):	Queen Mary, University of London <u>and</u> Leo Baeck Institute, London
Name of the final award and Programme title:	MA in European Jewish History
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part time)
UCAS code:	n/a
QAA Benchmark Group	
Academic Department/s involved in programme delivery	Department of History Leo Baeck Institute London

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
--	-----

### Criteria for admission to the programme

Normally an upper second honours degree with History or other humanities subject, together with two supportive academic references. A recognised equivalent from an accredited overseas institution or equivalent professional qualification is also accepted.

Applicants may be required to be interviewed and/or provide examples of written work. Applications from mature and 'non-traditional' students are welcomed and will be treated sympathetically.

### **Aims of the programme**

The new MA will train scholars towards independent research on Jewish history, culture and thought in Europe. It will provide a strong grounding in approaches and theories which have influenced the ways in which scholars understand Jewish history in a European and global context. Simultaneously, the MA will introduce students to a wide range of sources available for the study of European Jewish culture.

The MA is designed to run alongside the existing History MA degrees at Queen Mary, and will draw substantially on the main History MA core course, to which LBI staff will contribute in turn. The options for this MA will be available as options on other QM MA courses.

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

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

- A broad understanding of the history of Jews, and the Jewish-non-Jewish relations, in modern Europe and beyond
- Specialised knowledge of the ways in which European Jewish history has been researched and written over the last century
- An ability to write coherently and clearly about key historical topics in a way which is informed by current historical scholarship
- A developed capacity for argument and handling challenging ideas
- 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 based on original sources in such a way as to make a contribution to historical understanding

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

a) Teaching

Teaching will normally be provided in weekly seminars which will be led by staff members with original research qualifications and interests in the area. Seminars will be based on specified set texts, which may include primary and secondary materials. Students will be encouraged to discuss key issues, including theoretical approaches and interpretative procedures, and to assume an active role in shaping the direction

and scope of the discussion. Participation will also be encouraged through seminar presentations, and by the creation of a supportive, attentive, and considerate environment conducive to the exchange of ideas. Seminars will be supplemented by consultations with advisers, with option course leaders, and with dissertation supervisors, which will include opportunities for one-to-one discussions of course content and plans for written work. In addition there will be guided visits to libraries and other archives. Students will be expected to engage in private study in preparation for the seminars and in the production of essays and the dissertation. Each course is supported by a detailed reading list.

b) Learning

Learning will be supported by

- An academic adviser, allocated to each student at the beginning of the session, who advises on personal, practical and academic issues
- Detailed course descriptions explaining the aims, methods and structure of the course, essential reading and suggestions for independent research
- One-to-one advice on essay topics, followed by written and oral feedback on assessed work
- Supervision of the dissertation may include discussion of methodology, sources, the scope of appropriate reading and research, the conduct and structure of the argument, the revision of submitted drafts and bibliographical procedures. Supervision will be provided in an initial, individual planning meeting, followed by a minimum of at least three one-to-one meetings.
- Library resources, including the resources of the Leo Baeck Institute, the College Library, Senate House Library, the British Library, as well as other specialised London libraries and archives introduced through the research methods course.

c) Assessment

Course options are assessed by written essays of 4000 words. Students will be able to formulate their own essay topics in consultation with the course leader (essay topics must be formally approved by week 10 of each semester). The course leader will also provide guidance on planning and development of essays in one-to-one sessions during the second part of the semester.

There will be a compulsory 15,000 word dissertation. The dissertation supervisor will be allocated in the light of the student's outline topic proposal, which is formulated during the Spring Semester in consultation with the adviser (with input as needed from option course teachers). The supervisor will have expertise in the area of the student's proposed topic, and will help the student refine and develop his or her plans.

Written reports on both essays and dissertations will be provided by first and second markers. All written work will be returned to students individually by the course leader or the supervisor in feedback sessions. In order to provide written and oral feedback in good time, essays will be returned, with a grade banding and written reports, before the numerical grade has been formally approved by the external examiner (the grades will be added once the externals have completed their work). There will be no examinations.

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

Students take a compulsory core course and three one-semester options, and write a

dissertation. They also take a compulsory (non-assessed) research methods course. It is possible for students to choose an option course from another Master's programme within the college, subject to the approval of the programme organiser.

Full-time students will normally take the department's MA core course, 'History: Approaches, Methods, Challenges' and one option during the first semester, followed by two options during the second semester. Students would normally select courses from within the departments of History and German. In principle students will also be able to take an option from the wider Faculty of Arts at Queen Mary and relevant courses offered throughout the University of London colleges, as long as this enhances their understanding of Jewish history and culture.

Part-time students will normally take the research methods course, the core course, and one other option in their first year. They will normally begin work on their dissertation in the first year of study, but will register for the dissertation, and two other option courses, in their second year.

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

- **Staff Student Liaison Committee** MA students have two representatives on the committee who can raise student concerns. There is also a mechanism for forwarding individual written suggestions directly to the committee. Reports of the committees are discussed by the MA Committee.
- **Course Evaluation** All modules will be evaluated by written student questionnaires, while the programme and student experience will be evaluated in a student satisfaction survey.**Advisers** Students will be assigned to an Adviser at induction. At the beginning of each semester students will meet the Adviser to discuss practical and academic issues. Other meetings will be arranged to discuss essay and or dissertation plans and to review progress. In addition advisers will keep a specified office hour, at which they will be available to discuss issues with advisees or course members.
- **Student files** Advisers will maintain a file on each advisee, which will include records of beginning-of-semester meetings, copies of assessment reports, correspondence with the student and any medical/special needs documentation supplied by the students. Another file will be maintained in accordance with the data protection act.
- **Course Teachers** All MA teachers will provide support, not only within the classes, but in one-to-one advice sessions to discuss progress and essay plans, or to provide feedback on presentations or assessed work.

### **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.**

**Career Implications**

The MA will provide a grounding in research methodologies and practices for students intending to pursue doctoral work; an enhanced understanding of Jewish history appropriate for students wishing to follow teaching careers; and improved competence in transferable skills valued in the market place, including researching and locating sources, analysis of complex arguments, openness to a variety of viewpoints, oral and written presentation of arguments and information, and effective time-management. The programme will equip students with excellent employee skills of a sort consonant with a good arts degree at masters level from a good department in a good university. The international contacts of the Leo Baeck Institute to potential employers might also prove useful to some students.

<b>Person Completing Programme Specification</b>	Dr Christina von Hodenberg
<b>Person responsible for management of programme</b>	Professor Dr Raphael Gross, Dr Christina von Hodenberg, Dr Daniel Wildmann
<b>Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee</b>	
<b>Date of approval by Faculty Board/SMD Education Board</b>	14 May 2009 (Quality Enhancement Committee)
<b>Date of update/amendment</b>	