

Programme Specification

Academic Year 2017-18 MA Transnational Studies

Programme code: 4232 (Full Time); 4233 (Part Time)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time or Part time is permitted
Duration in years	1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time)
Accreditation details	Not Applicable
Final award	Masters of Arts
Name of award	MA Transnational Studies
Interim Exit awards	PG Certificate
FHEQ level of final award	HE7
UCAS code	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Lead	Dr Heidi Armbruster
Date specification was written	10/01/2009
Date specification was last updated	June 2017

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme takes a unique interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The programme investigates new and historical population movements and their impact on our understanding of contemporary societies; it analyses the transnational flow of cultural texts and products; it takes into focus the role of artists and thinkers in a global cultural network, and brings to light new cultures of dissemination and consumption. It engages transnationalism as an approach that asks new questions about the role of nation and state and opens up inquiries into the creation, articulation and contestation of national identities and collective memories; it explores the role of multilingualism in transnational spaces and the ways in which beliefs about language inform social inclusion and exclusion.

Special Features of the programme

The programme includes one option module which can be chosen from other areas of the postgraduate curriculum in Modern Languages and the Faculty of Humanities. You can choose a language module as your option (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish or Russian). This will allow you to get a taste of a language you may have always wanted to learn or to improve your already existing language skills

Learning and teaching

You will complete a core programme of research skills development in tandem with a series of modules. You will develop knowledge and understanding through tutor-led and student-led seminars, collaborative projects, oral presentations and independent research. Film and visual arts will be integrated into teaching and learning activities where applicable.

A large part of postgraduate study is independent learning. The programme will develop your critical awareness, encouraging you to reflect on the methodologies employed in further study and to apply these to the reading and research you undertake as part of your degree.

Assessment

You will be assessed by a variety of means, such as research essays and papers and shorter pieces of assessed work, individual and group presentations and the dissertation. The 20,000 word dissertation is a core element in establishing the acquisition of appropriate skills and the application of research techniques. Your masters tutor will be available to provide regular and supportive advice, guidance and feedback on your progress.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration, however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The emergence of transnational patterns in cultures, societies and languages is one of the pre-eminent phenomena of our time. Unlike the current (few) existing programmes in Transnational Studies, which cover politics, economics and development, our programme focuses on transnational theories and phenomena across a wide range of the humanities and social sciences. The programme will train you to analyse cultural, historical and linguistic processes in the context of transnational processes, and will emphasize working across cultures, both at the conceptual level (theory) and in the material studied.

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of theories of transnationalism, postcolonialism, globalization, nationalism and imperialism
- enhance your ability to analyse transnational phenomena
- enable you to work across cultures, on conceptual and practical levels
- introduce you to advanced-level study of transnational aspects of culture, linguistics and history, utilizing theoretical texts, primary source materials and the key secondary literature
- equip you with the practical and intellectual skills with which you may develop a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of transnational phenomena and a critical evaluation of existing scholarly perspectives
- provide you, via the dissertation, with the opportunity to make your own original contribution to understanding transnationalism, based upon extensive use of primary sources and a comprehension of what has and has not already been adequately addressed in the secondary literature.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 theories of transnationalism, postcolonialism, globalization, nationalism and imperialism
- A2 transnational cultural, historical and linguistic processes
- A3 innovative research methodologies in the humanities
- A4 how conceptual frameworks for understanding nationalism and post-nationalism have changed
- A5 the subject chosen for your dissertation, including principal primary source materials and relevant scholarly literature

Teaching and Learning Methods

- You will develop knowledge and understanding through, tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, reaction papers, collaborative projects and independent research.
- Film and the visual arts will be integrated into teaching and learning activities where applicable
- An innovative aspect of the programme is the combination of collaborative and individual learning activities.
- Staff and students will organise and participate in workshops and conferences.

Assessment methods

- research projects presented in written and oral formats
- extended research papers and shorter pieces of assessed coursework
- individual and group presentations
- dissertation of 20,000 words.

Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, the final component of which—the dissertation—tests the breadth and complexity of your knowledge and understanding of a topic of your choice.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- B1 evaluate the evolution of theoretical approaches to transnationalism and nationalism
- B2 synthesize major debates on transnational processes involving cultural, linguistic, historical and socio-political phenomena
- B3 critically evaluate primary source material and arguments contained in secondary texts, and to propose new hypotheses on the basis of these evaluations
- B4 synthesize and integrate the analysis of field research, primary source materials and secondary texts into a coherent and original dissertation

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities particularly designed to enhance your thinking skills include tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, group projects, oral presentations and dissertation.

Assessment methods

Research Papers and shorter pieces of assessed work, individual and group presentations and the dissertation will all assess your intellectual skills.

Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests your cognitive skills, moving from articulation of concepts through to synthesis and evaluation

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- C1 communicate complex ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- C2 communicate complex ideas and arguments orally, in the context of formal collaborative and individual presentations
- C3 identify, select and draw upon a wide range of printed and electronic sources
- C4 demonstrate collaborative skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence

- C5 demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study
- C6 identify, locate, select and draw upon a wide range of primary and secondary source materials
- C7 develop your linguistic skills
- C8 critically evaluate and integrate field research, primary sources, and the arguments of established authorities
- C9 demonstrate the capacity for self-directed and collaborative problem-solving, and time-management
- C10 become more globally and culturally aware

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed through tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorial discussions, group and individual presentations, IT workshops, bibliographic training sessions, group projects and independent research.

Assessment methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations, reaction papers, practical skills exercises, group and individual research projects, departmental research seminars and a dissertation. Progression is recognized in the assessment scheme, which allows the development of source identification and selection skills, critical and evaluative skills, written communications skills, independent and collaborative working and time-management skills in the form of essays, research projects, oral presentations through to the sustained application of these skills in the 20,000 word dissertation.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Choose an appropriate research topic related to transnational issues and develop a clearly-focussed research question
- Conduct a small research project applying a transnational perspective to a self-chosen area
- Evaluate a range of critical approaches to transnational literature and culture
- Select and use relevant secondary sources in independent research project
- Demonstrate the ability to use relevant research methods (such as interviewing, ethnography, critical reading)
- Give a presentation on your chosen subject and lead a discussion

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attributes are the personal qualities, skills and understanding you can develop during your studies. They include but extend beyond your knowledge of an academic discipline and its technical proficiencies. Graduate Attributes are important because they equip you for the challenge of contributing to your chosen profession and may enable you to take a leading role in shaping the society in which you live.

The MA in Transnational Studies fosters a transnational profile in graduates who return to or enter the world of work in a global age. We offer you the opportunity to learn how to think globally, to become culturally aware, to embrace multilingualism as an opportunity and to realise how you can develop and grow as global citizens.

Programme Structure

Programme details

Availability of Modules

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Full-time students **complete the programme in one year, as follows:**

Compulsory modules		Credits
TRAN6009	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
TRAN6012	Cultural Flows	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
TRAN6010	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
TRAN6015	Understanding Transitional Studies Key Concepts	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
Core modules		
TRAN6008	Research Skills 1	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
TRAN6011	Research Skills 2	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
TRAN6014	Dissertation	37.5 ECTS (75 CATS)
Option modules		
LING6028	Intercultural Communications	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6014	English as a World Language	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6044	Teaching Foreign Languages to Younger Learners	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LANGXX15	Language Module	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
LING6006	Language in Society	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

Part-time students complete the programme in 26 months. Please consult with the programme convener and the Humanities Graduate School office for further details.

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Standalone Masters Programmes*](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html) as set out in the University Calendar:
<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30	20

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas and ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Programme Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group
- National Student Survey

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)

- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

This includes specific compliance with legislation relating to discrimination (e.g. Equality Act 2010) and the University's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement. This includes a commitment that the University will:

- actively assist groups that experience disadvantage in education and employment to benefit from belonging to the University
- actively seek to widen participation to enable students that do not traditionally participate in Higher Education to do so;
- ensure that admission procedures select students fairly and appropriately according to their academic ability and that the procedure is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Entry Requirements

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Honours degree or equivalent	First- or upper second-class	English, Linguistics, Modern Languages or another relevant discipline.	

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you are over 21 and feel you would benefit from degree-level studies, we can be more flexible about our entry requirements. For full-time courses, selectors will expect you to demonstrate your commitment by means of some recent serious study, for example, one or two A level passes, successful completion of an Open University foundation course or an appropriate Access course. Your application will be considered on individual merit and you may be asked to attend an interview.

More information on the entry requirements for MA Transnational Studies can be found on the Modern Languages webpage here:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/modern_languages/r900_ma_transnational_studies.page

For further information, please contact our Admissions Team: pgafh@southampton.ac.uk

The University's Admission policy is available at

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissionspolicies/policy/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
---------	---------	---------	----------	-----------

6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Career Opportunities

A Masters degree will enable you to further develop the key skills employers seek such as: time management; problem solving; team work; deadline and project management; cultural awareness; working independently; using your initiative; relationship-building; critical thinking and research analysis. Above all, you will learn to communicate your ideas and enthusiasm to a wide range of audiences.

The skills and knowledge from this MA have enabled students to proceed onto doctoral research or to gain employment in the UK or abroad in the arts, the charity sector, the development and immigration sector, the foreign office, interpreting, teaching, and higher education administration.

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name Dr Rachael Langford **Institution:** Cardiff University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Programme Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/modern_languages/r900_ma_transnational_studies.page?.

Appendix:

Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping document template

Module Code	Module Title	Knowledge and Understanding					Subject Specific Intellectual Skills			
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4
TRAN6009	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts (compulsory)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.
TRAN6012	Cultural Flows (compulsory)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.
TRAN6010	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation (compulsory)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.
TRAN6008	Research Skills 1 (core)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.
TRAN6011	Research Skills 2 (core)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.
TRAN6014	Dissertation – 20,000 words (core)	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LING6006	Language in Society (compulsory)									

Module Code	Module Title	Transferable/Key Skills									
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
TRAN6009	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts (compulsory)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TRAN6012	Cultural Flows (compulsory)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TRAN6010	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation (compulsory)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TRAN6008	Research Skills 1 (core)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TRAN6011	Research Skills 2 (core)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TRAN6014	Dissertation – 20,000 words (core)	.		.		.	.	.	.	.	.
LING6006	Language in Society (compulsory)										

Module Code	Module Title	Coursework 1	Coursework 2	Exam
TRAN6009	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts (compulsory)	Oral presentation of research topic 30%	4000 word research paper 70%	n/a
TRAN6012	Cultural Flows (compulsory)	Oral presentation 30%	3000 word written report 70%	n/a
TRAN6010	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation (compulsory)	Oral presentation based on project 30%	4000 word research essay 70%	n/a
TRAN6008	Research Skills 1 (core)	1500 word academic book review 40%	200 word methodological review 60%	n/a
TRAN6011	Research Skills 2 (core)	Review paper (1500 words) 40%	Review paper (2000 words) 60%	n/a
TRAN6014	Dissertation (core)	20,000 word dissertation 100%	n/a	n/a
LING6006	Language in Society	1000 word critical Book Review 30%	3500 word essay 70%	n/a

Appendix 2:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Materials (such as laboratory materials, textbooks, drawing paper, fabric, thread, computer disks, Sheet Music)
- Software Licenses
- Clothing (such as Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, specific shoes and trousers)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Typing Costs
- Field Trips (including accommodation costs for the field trips)
- Work Experience and Placements (including accommodation costs near the placement, additional insurance costs)
- Travel Costs for placements, field trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).
- Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements.
- Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance Subsistence Costs
- Paying for a Music accompanist
- Translation of birth certificates (for programmes abroad)
- Conference expenses
- Professional exams
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Other activities (e.g. visiting specialist marine stations and other institutions)
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.