

## Programme Specification

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### MA Jewish History and Culture (Southampton) (2020-21)

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
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	MA Jewish History and Culture (Southampton)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	4187
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Helen Spurling (hs1y08)

### Programme Overview

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#### Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (4188).

First launched in 1997, the MA programme offers a rich encounter with the main currents in Jewish history and culture, drawing on and fostering the use of different scholarly disciplines. Reflecting the heritage of James Parkes' scholarship, on which the Parkes Institute is founded, the programme places a distinct and unique emphasis on studying Jewish History and Culture within the broad framework of the study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations. The course of studies builds on the world-class resources of the University's Parkes Library and Jewish Archives in the University Library, and is taught by a well-established team of scholars drawn from disciplines including History, English, and Modern Languages, brought together within the Parkes Institute.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

### Learning and teaching

The programme draws on a range of teaching activities, including tutor-led seminar discussions, student-led presentations, training in research skills, and varied written assignments. Wherever possible, use is made of the rich variety of documents in the library collections. Students are guided in developing their skills of written and oral argumentation. They are also encouraged to develop relevant language skills for research purposes. Where appropriate, and in consultation with the convenor, students based in Southampton may opt to take relevant language units such as Hebrew, Greek, Yiddish or German. All students write a dissertation for which supervision is provided by members of the Parkes Institute.

### Assessment

The staff of the Parkes Institute offers generous help and support to students. Tutors will provide informal feedback so that you can understand your progress and improve in particular areas. You are encouraged to discuss any concerns with your tutors and to seek their advice. Tutors will also provide support for formal assessment, which takes the form of essays, shorter written assignments for Research Skills, and the dissertation. The feedback you receive throughout will be constructive and timely.

**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

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The aims of the programme are to:

- Offer a multidisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish history and culture
- Provide an in-depth appreciation of the main currents in Jewish history and culture
- Develop awareness of the rich texture, diversity, and complexity of Jewish social milieus, religion, culture and politics, intellectual thought, identity, self-representation, including gender roles and distinctions
- Provide knowledge of a range of theoretical or conceptual approaches and perspectives to these subject areas, with a view to the critical evaluation and application of these approaches or perspectives in your own work
- Introduce or develop awareness of a range of original, stimulating sources in the field, including biblical, historical and literary texts, primary documents, memoirs, film, art, architecture and oral testimony
- Enable you to engage critically with this wide range of primary sources
- Enable you to make full use of the programme's library and archival facilities and to make these resources an integral element of the programme, particularly in the form of the Parkes Library and Jewish archives, the largest Jewish documentation centre in western Europe and the only one in the world devoted to Jewish/non-Jewish relations
- Create an enticing framework for the enjoyment and enhancement of independent research, and enable you to develop specialist expertise of your choosing from within the parameters of the programme whilst providing scholarly encouragement, support and enthusiasm towards this goal
- Prepare you for further study and/or employment by developing subject-specific skills as well as key transferable skills

## Programme Learning Outcomes

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### Knowledge and Understanding

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On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. Key elements of Jewish history and culture, languages, literature and religion
- A2. Key debates in the secondary literature relating to Jewish life and Jewish/ non-Jewish relations, and how to contribute to and situate your own research within these debates
- A3. Patterns of social, cultural and linguistic development, mobility and migration, continuity, flux and change in the Jewish experience across our chronological range
- A4. Major currents of Jewish philosophical and intellectual thought
- A5. Patterns of change in Jewish self-identification, including in gender terms, as expressed in literary and other texts under discussion, considering their merits and weaknesses and using relevant empirical evidence and/or conceptual and theoretical perspectives for this purpose
- A6. How to undertake independent research, including documentary and archival research, with appropriate supervision

### Teaching and Learning Methods

- A range of activities is employed across the modules, varying in style and approach.
- The research skills core module uses practical exercises, tutor-led seminars, and study visits to provide the skills necessary to make the most of the other modules and the dissertation. You will be given guidance on ways to interrogate source materials through practise-based seminars and will be introduced to the essential skills for researching Jewish history and culture.
- The taught modules use individual oral presentations and a combination of tutor- and student-led seminar discussion and interaction.
- Individual written assignments in the form of essays and dissertations are another key teaching method. Research for the module essays serves to prepare you for the dissertation. Tutor pre-essay advice and post-essay feedback offers a framework within which you can further develop your confidence and academic skills.
- In addition to catering to a variety of learning styles, the combination of teaching activities used progressively increases confidence, and helps you to deepen your understanding and develop independent learning and project-management skills.

### Assessment Methods

- Assessment procedures play a central role in the teaching and learning process. They are designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the material studied, as well as your competence in transferable and discipline-specific skills. The School MA Handbook contains detailed descriptors for each type of assessment.
- All postgraduate modules are assessed by essay and, in some cases, presentation, apart from the Research Skills module, where assessment is based on a portfolio of skills exercises.
- Summative assessment is the assessment that determines whether you pass individual modules and your overall degree result. All modules are subject to summative assessment at the end of the semester in which they are taught. Assessed essays test your ability to interpret and engage critically with primary and secondary sources, which need not be exclusively written sources, but which may include material culture, art, artefacts, landscape and the built environment, where appropriate. They assess your ability to synthesize such material and to deploy such evidence in support of a cogent argument. The dissertation tests your ability to manage a project independently and to construct an extended argument.

- Formative assessment allows you to gauge how your learning is progressing in real time. It does not directly affect your overall degree result, or the mark you receive for specific modules. Such formative assessment takes place throughout the curriculum. Informal written and oral feedback on presentations, essays and draft dissertation elements will be constructive and timely.

## **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Critically evaluate a range of primary materials relating to Jewish history and culture
- B2. Critically evaluate and engage with debates in the scholarly literature
- B3. Develop new hypotheses on the basis of these evaluations
- B4. Articulate, present and defend your hypotheses, and engage constructively with those of your peers
- B5. Describe and explain the way in which the theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of Jewish history and culture have changed and evolved over time
- B6. Synthesise and integrate the analysis of primary and secondary texts into a coherent and original essay and dissertation argument

## **Teaching and Learning Methods**

- A range of student-centred teaching and learning activities, including seminars and student-led discussion, will introduce you to the material and approaches relevant to this programme.
- Activities designed to enhance your intellectual skills include class presentations, essays and the dissertation.

## **Assessment Methods**

- The assessments employed in each module are tailored to the specific learning outcomes of individual modules.
- Essays and dissertations are the principal means used to assess your cognitive skills. Some modules also use oral presentations, and the research skills course uses a range of skills exercises.
- In order to appraise levels of competence in these areas as the module progresses you will have the opportunity for informal feedback on aspects of your work from both academic staff and peers.

## **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Produce lucid, coherent, fluent and elegant prose
- C2. Prepare a professional presentation, using supporting material and technology where appropriate, to disseminate your work
- C3. Communicate complex ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- C4. Communicate complex ideas and arguments orally in presentations and informal discussion
- C5. Demonstrate interpersonal skills in the context of discussion and debate with others
- C6. Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed problem-solving, independent working, self-motivation, and

time-management

- C7. Design and carry out an independent research project
- C8. Identify, locate, select, and draw upon a wide range of primary and secondary source materials
- C9. Critically evaluate and integrate both primary sources and the arguments of established authorities

### Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed through tutor-led and student-led tutorial discussion, bibliographic training sessions, practical research exercises, and the research for and writing of essays and dissertations.

### Assessment Methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through practical skills exercises, the writing of essays, informal discussion, formal oral presentations, and a 20,000 word dissertation.

## Programme Structure

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The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

### Part I

#### Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HIST6092	History Dissertation	37.5	Core
HIST6103	Jews and Non-Jews: relations from antiquity to modernity	15	Core
HIST6082	Public History	7.5	Optional
HIST6081	Research Skills and Dissertation Preparation	15	Optional

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#### Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HIST6087	History Individually Negotiated Topic 1	7.5	Optional

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HIST6088	History Individually Negotiated Topic 2	7.5	Optional
HIST6093	Jewish Society and Culture in Eastern Europe	7.5	Optional
HIST6113	The conversion of the Roman Empire: Pagans, Jews and Christians	7.5	Optional
HIST6084	The Holocaust, Englishness and Americanness	7.5	Optional

## Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) and [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes](#) as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

## 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 Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, 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
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- 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 Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU 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.

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.

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- 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 Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; and 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.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- The world-class resources of the Parkes Library
- The Parkes Jewish archives, the largest Jewish documentation centre in western Europe and the only one in the world devoted to Jewish/non-Jewish relations

## Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

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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

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

## Career Opportunities

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- Academic
- Museums
- Secondary education
- Tour guide
- Journalism and media
- Jewish community work
- Publishing
- Library and archive work
- Civil service

## External Examiner(s) for the programme

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Name: Dr Hannah Holtschneider – New College, Edinburgh

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 Course 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 Academic 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.



## Appendix 1:

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 also have to pay for:

### Additional Costs

Type	Details
Hardware	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies.</p> <p>Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.</p> <p>A list of the University printing costs can be found here: <a href="http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/">http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</a></p>

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](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk).