Programme Specification

MA Languages and Cultures (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 Languages and Cultures
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate
	Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8513
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Eleanor Jones

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MA in Languages and Cultures offers you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of global languages, cultures and societies, with the support of world-leading scholars at an internationally recognised university. The programme will equip you with a deepened multicultural knowledge, and with the skills of analysis, communication and critical thinking necessary to excel in a wide range of careers.

You will be taught and supervised by experts in a unique range of disciplines, including cultural and literary studies, history, ethnography and anthropology, and will receive thorough training in theory and research methods. You will use this theoretical and methodological knowledge to approach a broad range of topics, events and texts from across our regions of specialisation, which include modern Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Black diaspora, with options available on East and South Asia and the Jewish diaspora. Throughout the programme, we will work closely with you to help develop your own research interests in relation to the course.

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

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Learning and teaching

You will be guided through to the achievement of the programme's learning outcomes by a range of lectures, seminars and workshops, supplemented by individual contact with programme staff. Your dissertation will be supervised on a one-on-one basis with the member of staff most closely attuned to your research topic.

Assessment

Your progress on the course will be assessed through a range of formative and summative tasks. These include critical essays, oral presentations, practical tasks, reports on research events and reviews of published scholarship. These tasks will inform your final dissertation, which will be based on your own research interests and developed through consultation with an individual staff member.

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.

Special Features of the programme

As a postgraduate student, you will be a full member of the dynamic research environment here at Southampton. Your learning will be enriched by events hosted by the multidisciplinary Centre for Transnational Studies, which hosts research seminars, postgraduate workshops, public lectures and engagement events throughout the year, and by our PGR-led Modern Languages Research Group. You will also have access to events run by other research groups, such as the Centre for Imperial and Postcolonial Studies, the Centre for Global Englishes, the Centre for Modern and Contemporary Writing, the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, and others across the School of Humanities, Winchester School of Art, and the School of Social Sciences. Our Faculty is closely affiliated with Southampton's internationally-recognised cultural institutions, such as the John Hansard Gallery and Nuffield Theatre, which offer additional opportunities for globally-oriented cultural enrichment.

You will also have the opportunity to improve your foreign language skills via the Language Opportunity Programme. You could pick up a new language from scratch, increase your proficiency in one you already know. Each year, we offer a variety of levels in languages that might include Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.

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Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: - Equip students with an advanced grounding in research methodologies from various humanities disciplines
- Develop students' ability to understand and critically reflect, at an advanced level, on published scholarship and on conceptual and theoretical texts
- Enable students to develop the skills necessary to be thorough and efficient researchers of languages and cultures
- Enhance students' ability to produce high-level, sophisticated academic writing across numerous disciplinary conventions
- Develop students' ability to orally present and debate a high-level academic argument
- Enhance students' understanding of what working across cultures entails
- Equip students with an in-depth knowledge of ways to approach and understand world cultures and societies, cultural crossings and cultural movement
- Provide students with an advanced grounding in theories of nationhood, culture, identity, memory, colonisation, migration and globalisation
- Develop students' ability to critically reflect, at an advanced level, on a range of global cultural texts and case studies

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1.   working and thinking globally and across cultures, at an advanced level

A2.   advanced research methods from a range of Humanities disciplines

A3.   the principles of high-level research design in the Humanities

A4.   the subject chosen for your dissertation, including principal primary source materials and relevant advanced scholarly literature

A5.   high-level conceptualisations, theories and debates around nationhood, culture, identity, memory, imperialism, colonisation, migration, globalisation and representation

A6.   how culture manifests and is disseminated through global exchange and encounter, to an advanced level

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your knowledge and understanding will be developed through lectures, seminars and workshops, supplemented by one-on-one contact with programme staff and attendance at research events. You will be strongly encouraged to make use of Library and Web resources throughout the course and to extend your independent learning skills.

Assessment Methods

Your knowledge and understanding are assessed via critical essays, oral presentations, reports on research events and reviews of published scholarship. To gain the full MA award, you will also complete a dissertation, which will bring together the knowledge and understanding you have acquired during the taught component of the programme.

Note: Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of A1 and A2 (above). Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of A1, A2 and A5.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

B1.   evaluate theoretical approaches to nationhood, culture, power and identity, at an advanced level

B2.   communicate a high-level academic argument in written and oral form

B3.   demonstrate confidence and skill when engaging in high-level academic discussion and debate

B4.   develop a sustained high-level argument over an extended piece of work

B5.   interpret and reflect critically, at an advanced level, on a range of global cultural texts and case studies

B6.   employ high-level critical, cultural and social theory in analysing cultural trends, narratives and texts

Teaching and Learning Methods

These subject-specific intellectual and research skills will be developed through lectures, seminars and workshops, including in-class discussion and debate, and through one-on-one research supervisions with programme staff. You will be strongly encouraged to make use of Library and Web resources throughout the course and to extend your independent learning skills.

Assessment Methods

These skills are assessed via critical essays, oral presentations, reports on research events and reviews of published scholarship. To gain the full MA award, you will also complete a dissertation, which will bring together the skills you have acquired during the taught component of the programme.

Note: Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of B1 and B2.

Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of B1, B2 and B5.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1.   communicate complex, advanced ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats

C2.   communicate complex, advanced ideas and arguments orally

C3.   identify, select and draw upon a wide range of printed and electronic sources

C4.   reach an advanced level of global and cultural awareness

C5.   manage deadlines and make effective use of your time

C6.   engage in high-level debate around complex ideas and theories

C7.   engage in high-level analysis of texts, case studies and arguments

C8.   research and synthesise a large volume of primary and secondary materials, and present them in an extended piece of high-level, coherently argued writing that conforms to the conventions of academic style and referencing

C9.   show awareness of the processes required to address research ethics, where appropriate.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills are developed through the programme's emphasis on active participation and independent learning. You are expected to read widely beyond the parameters of individual modules.

Assessment Methods

Your key skills are tested through assessed coursework involving essays, oral presentations, practical tasks, and where appropriate, in-class and take-away examinations. The final dissertation constitutes the means by which the acquisition of skills appropriate to the MA is distinguished from that of the Diploma.

Note: Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of C1 and C2.

Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of C1, C2 and C8.

Programme Structure

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

Typical course content

In each semester, you will take two specialist research-led modules in the field of world cultures and societies. In semester 1, you will be guided through key ways of engaging with the materials on the course in the Approaches to Languages and Cultures module. In addition, you will choose one module in each semester from a selection of options across the School of Humanities – for example, in History, Film, Linguistics, Translation or Creative Writing – for a total of two optional modules.

In the second semester, you will begin preparing for your 15,000-word dissertation, with an intensive practical research skills module and guidance from a supervisor allocated according to specialism. Your dissertation will be completed during the summer months

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LANG6027	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts	7.5	Compulsory
LANG6028	Narrative, Place, Identity	7.5	Compulsory
LANG6023	Nation, Culture, Power	7.5	Compulsory
LANG6024	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LANG6022	Approaches to Languages and Cultures	7.5	Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LANG6025	MA Dissertation (Languages & Cultures and Translation & Professional Communication Skills)	30	Core
LANG6029	Research Skills (Dissertation Preparation)	7.5	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HIST6128	China in the Cold War	7.5	Optional
FILM6046	East Asian Action Cinema	7.5	Optional
LING6014	English as a World Language	7.5	Optional
HIST6108	France and the World since 1789	7.5	Optional
HIST6127	German Nationalisms since the Enlightenment	7.5	Optional
HIST6098	Histories of Britain and Empire	7.5	Optional
HIST6096	Imperialism and Decolonisation	7.5	Optional
HIST6093	Jewish Society and Culture in Eastern Europe	7.5	Optional
LING6028	Language and Intercultural Communication	7.5	Optional
LING6043	Language ideologies in a globalising world	7.5	Optional
HUMA6015	Narrative Non-Fiction: The Interdisciplinary Art	7.5	Optional
FILM6044	The Holocaust in American Film	7.5	Optional
LANG6018	Translation: Theory and Practice	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* Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in *section VI of the University Calendar*.

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.

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, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback 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.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality Handbook.*

Career Opportunities

The programme will equip you with a deepened multicultural knowledge, and with the skills of analysis, communication and critical thinking necessary to excel in a wide range of careers. It will allow you to develop a range of skills allied with a deeper understanding of what working across cultures entails, thus equipping you for a range of careers in multicultural and multilingual environments. Optional modules offer the opportunity for you to develop competence in translation and creative writing. Should you choose to continue an academic career, you will benefit from our department's track record in securing places and funding for postgraduate research.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

TBC

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 they take 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
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)	Some modules may include optional visits to a museum, galleries, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted online. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.
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	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. 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. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.

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.