

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		2017/18			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
History and English and Related Literature					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA Medical History and Humanities			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
PG Certificate in Medical History and Humanities					
PG Diploma in Medical History and Humanities					
Admissions criteria					
First degree to 2.1 standard or equivalent English Language requirements: IELTS score of 7.0 (applications with an IELTS score of 6.5 will be considered if otherwise impressive)					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA	1 FT / 2 PT		Y		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
N/A					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
<p>The MA in Medical History and Humanities aims to provide an interdisciplinary, internationally-focused learning environment in which students will explore the links between history, the humanities and policy. By examining areas such as illness and health; changing concepts of well-being; issues of public health; and the history of medicine from historical, literary, social and cultural perspectives, students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in a subject which crosses disciplinary boundaries.</p> <p>To develop this stimulating environment, the programme will draw on expertise from: the departments of History and English at the university; the Centre for Global Health Histories</p>					

based in the Humanities Research Centre; and the World Health Organization's Global Health Histories Initiative. In this way, students will be exposed to research that is at the forefront of this expanding area of study.

As a result of this unique structure, the programme's graduates will develop advanced skills in analysing and reflecting on cultural representations of health, clinical practice, health policy and human experience from multiple perspectives – skills which will serve as a strong basis for careers in such diverse areas as the arts, public health, medicine, social policy development and more advanced research at PhD level.

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

N/A

Additionally for the Masters:

To develop the academic, personal and professional skills required to equip a graduate to undertake PhD research or make immediate impact upon employment in a relevant field such as teaching or health policy.

To provide education which establishes the foundation for graduate level research into medical history and humanities.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding	
<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <p>1. Identify and explain key theoretical concepts and debates in medical humanities, including the shifting definitions of the discipline itself;</p> <p>2. Outline theories of the body, medical history, health, well-being, and health policy which inform debates in medicine today;</p> <p>3. Identify the debates, controversies and developments in medical ideas across history and nations, and discuss how historians have engaged with and influenced global health policy.</p> <p>Additionally, for the Diploma:</p> <p>4. Utilise their knowledge of the literature and international perspectives for an area of specialisation to analyse issues related to global health, medical history and the humanities;</p> <p>Additionally, for the Masters</p> <p>5. Demonstrate knowledge of research methodologies, from a range of disciplines, to analyse an appropriate area of research-led specialisation.</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar teaching (1-3) • Independent study (1-5) • Training workshops (1-5) • Essays (1-3) • Dissertation (4,5)
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <p>1. Engage with historical, literary, social and cultural theory in order to explore issues in</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-5) • Essays and dissertation (1-8)

<p>medical history and policy;</p> <p>2. Engage in the comparative study of literature through close, critical reading;</p> <p>3. Discuss theoretical ideas from arts, social science and science disciplines;</p> <p>4. Formulate a well- structured, evidenced, referenced, academic argument for oral or written presentation;</p> <p>Additionally, for the Diploma:</p> <p>5. Identify key primary sources for the study of medical history and 'problematise' and 'historicise' the materials;</p> <p>6. Analyse and critique historiographical approaches and methodologies;</p> <p>Additionally, for the Masters:</p> <p>7. Undertake individual research of a defined humanities topic.</p> <p>8. Evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline</p>	
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <p>1. Identify, access, select, use and</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1. 3, 4, 5)

<p>evaluate information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Express and structure work effectively to prescribed formats and deadlines 3. Participate in discussion and debate in collaboration with people from other disciplines <p>Additionally, for the Diploma:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Select, use and adapt material appropriately to enhance understanding and engagement by a given audience 5. Deal with complex issues systematically and communicate complex information effectively in English <p>Additionally, for the Masters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Undertake complex research tasks competently and evaluate the research and data collection methods. 7. Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks 	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays and dissertation (1, 2, 4-6)
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to:</p> <p>- Engage in cross-disciplinary study;</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and learning activities available through departments of English and Related Literature and History.

- Access significant research centres in which cutting edge international research is undertaken (the Centre for Global Histories; connections to WHO Global Health Histories Initiative);

-Apply for Internship opportunities with the World Health Organisation in Geneva.

Masters degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

i a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice;

ii a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;

iii originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;

iv conceptual understanding that enables the student:

- 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.

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Experience is not qualitatively assessed.

Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

The proposal has been checked against the QA's definition of an MA. We have designed the programme with the Wellcome Trust's definition of 'medical humanities' in mind.

University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/english/> and <http://www.york.ac.uk/history/>.

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters FT

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Dissertation ISM (90 credits) Core	
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)		
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Masters PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the dissertation	
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Year Two:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Dissertation ISM (90 credits) Core	

Postgraduate Diploma FT

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Long Essay (30 credits) Core
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Postgraduate Diploma PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the long essay
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Year Two

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	Long Essay (30 credits) Core

Postgraduate Certificate FT

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	

Students must achieve 60 credits in the Autumn and Spring terms. The Medical History and Humanities module must be passed.

Postgraduate Certificate PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Medical History and Humanities [Core] (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	

Year Two:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Option (20 credits)	Option (20 credits)	

Students must pass the core module plus two module options to achieve the certificate.

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Summative Assessments (submission dates):

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Medical History and Humanities [Core]: Week 2	Mon week2 SuT Option 1	Dissertation (end SuVac)	AuT Week 7
	Mon Week 2 Option	Mon week2 SuT Option 2	<i>Long essay (end SuVac)</i>	
	Week 10 Dissertation proposal			

Formative Assessments

Please note that this is the likely pattern for formative assessment, but that the timing and format of formative assessments is subject to the convenor's discretion. Not all modules will necessarily include formative assessments and it will depend on the department where the module is based.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Wk 5 Core Essay	Wk 6 Option Essay	Various ISM & Long Essay Workshop Presentation
Wk 6 Option Essay	Wk 6 Option Essay	

Reassessments:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Week 10 (Core)	Week 10 SpT options AuT Option		Week 7 AuT

Boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
		Week 6 (prog)		Week 7 AuT

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module ? ⁵
Medical History and Humanities (Core)	HIS00091M	7	20		N/C	AuT Term Week 10 4000-word essay	N
MA Research Training Module	HIS00086M	7	10		P/F	500 word dissertation proposal Submitted SpT Week 10	N
Dissertation	HIS00087M	7	90		NC	End Summer vacation; 20,000 words (max) dissertation	Y
Long Essay (Diploma)	HIS00085M	7	40			End Summer vacation; 7,500 words (max) long essay	N

Option modules – Indicative Examples

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module ?
Global Visions and Local Action: the History and Politics of International Health	HIS00056 M	7	20			4,000 word essay submitted Week 2 Spring term if taught in AuT and week 1 Summer if taught in SpT.	N
Unspeakable Bodies: Theorising Queer and Abject Embodiment	ENG	7	20			4,000 word essay submitted Week 2 Spring term if taught in AuT and week 1 Summer if taught in SpT.	
Literature, Medicine & Metropolis	ENG	7	20			4000 word essay submitted Week 2 Spring term if	

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module ?
						taught in AuT and week 1 Summer if taught in SpT.	
Medicine and Spiritual Healing in the Early Modern World	HIS00065 M	7	20			4000 word essay submitted Week 2 Spring term if taught in AuT and week 1 Summer if taught in SpT.	
Patients, Consumers, Experimental Subjects: the Development of Modern Medicine	HIS00040 M	7	20			4000 word essay submitted Week 2 Spring term if taught in AuT and week 1 Summer if taught in SpT.	

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	September 2017
Departmental web page:	https://www.york.ac.uk/history/

Please note

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

Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.

The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.