

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		2017			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
History Convened by the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies (CREMS)					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
Diploma in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies					
Certificate in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies					
Admissions criteria					
Successful completion of BA degree in appropriate discipline, generally at Upper Second level, or equivalent overseas BA qualification. Those with English as a second language with IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent.					
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	12 Months F/T 24 Months P/T	N/A	X		
Diploma	9 Months F/T 18 Months P/T	N/A	X		
Certificate	6 Months F/T 12 Months P/T (Equivalent)	N/A	X		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
N/A					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a thorough foundation for graduate-level research and writing in the fields of Renaissance and Early Modern Studies; • To expose students to the range of resources available in and around York for studying the cultures of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Britain, Europe and the wider world; • To provide students with the archival skills and methodological training they will need to 					

make sense of these materials and to pursue their research questions across departmental and disciplinary boundaries;

- To provide stimulating models (in course modules, research seminars, conferences and public lectures) that will introduce students to the kinds of work being carried out in this area and help them to cultivate their interests in their chosen field;
- To provide a supportive and challenging research environment enabling students to work independently within a clearly defined structure of regular discussion and supervision; and
- To develop the academic, personal and professional skills required to undertake PhD research or make immediate impact upon employment in a relevant field.

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

- To allow the student to complete a long essay surveying and analysing the scholarly literatures on the topic of the essay by independent study.

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;
- To provide a foundation for graduate level interdisciplinary research into the early modern period;
- To provide stimulating modules to equip students with the specialist knowledge and understanding which will enable them to develop their interests in and make important contributions to their chosen field; and
- To allow students to complete a dissertation by independent study, involving the analysis of primary materials produced in the early modern period and relating and interpreting them with reference to existing scholarship.

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

Knowledge and understanding of:
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. The culture of the early modern period;
2. Key themes in the scholarship of the field;
3. The theoretical and methodological challenges presented by study in this field;
4. Issues concerning the interpretation of various kinds of sources used by scholars of the period; and

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Seminar teaching (1-7)
- Independent study (1-7)
- Training workshops/ lectures (4, 5)
- Tutorials/Supervision (1-7)

<p>5. The research techniques appropriate to various forms of Renaissance and early modern studies.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>6. Knowledge and understanding of an appropriate area of specialisation, developed in consultation with a supervisor.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>7. Knowledge and understanding of an appropriate area of research-led specialisation, developed in consultation with a supervisor.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (outcomes 1-5) • Dissertation proposal (1-5) • Long essay (1-6) • Dissertation (1-5, 7)
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate familiarity with and the use of a range of research methods and tools (for example, library and archival catalogues and online databases); 2. Demonstrate familiarity with, and the use, of recognized discipline-related methods of bibliography and citation; 3. Demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze primary and secondary sources 4. Demonstrate the ability to apply, explore and develop (1-3) through seminar debate, supervisory discussion and independent research; 5. Demonstrate the ability to articulate ideas lucidly and persuasively; and 6. Demonstrate the ability to present lengthy and complex arguments in writing; 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-5) • Workshops (1, 2) • Tutorials/Supervision (1-5)

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>7. Demonstrate the ability to analyze with knowledge and understanding an appropriate area of specialisation, in independent study in consultation with a supervisor.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>8. Demonstrate the ability to do a substantial piece of independent research and writing using primary and secondary sources and relating them to appropriate scholarship, working with an academic supervisor</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (1-6) • Dissertation proposal (1-5) • Long essay (1-6, 7) • Dissertation (1-6, 8)
B: (ii) Skills – transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage his/her own time effectively 2. Demonstrate appropriate professional conduct within a range of learning environments; 3. Communicate effectively (including informal debate); 4. Prepare written documents and present them in a professional manner; 5. Undertake written work to formal deadlines; and 6. Make effective and efficient use of electronic research resources. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>7. Communicate effectively (including the formal presentation of research before an audience).</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision (1-3, 6) • Seminars (1-3, 6-9) • Workshops (2, 3, 7, 9)

<p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Engage in the independent organisation and management of research materials and information; and 9. Communicate effectively (including the formal presentation of research before an audience). 	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (1, 3-9) • Dissertation proposal (1, 3-9) • Long Essay (1, 3-7) • Dissertation (1, 3-6, 8-9)
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in group seminars; individual supervisions; graduate discussion groups; research training; the regular research seminars of the Department, CREMS; conferences held in the Department and under the auspices of the Centre. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Undertake independent research. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and learning activities available through CREMS and its parent departments. <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays and dissertation (1-2) • Dissertation proposal (1-2)
<p>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)</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>University award regulations</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

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: www.york.ac.uk/crems/student-intranet/current-ma

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: www.york.ac.uk/crems/student-intranet/current-ma

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

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies 20 credits Core	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	Dissertation ISM 90 credits Core	
CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option		
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Masters PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies [Core] (20 credits)	CREMS Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the dissertation	
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Year two:

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

Postgraduate Diploma

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies 20 credits Core	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	Long essay 30 credits Core
CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Postgraduate Diploma PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies [Core] (20 credits)	CREMS Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the long essay
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Year Two

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

Postgraduate Certificate

The Certificate is awarded on the basis of students achieving 60 credits including the Core Modules, and any two of three CREMS Option Modules.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies 20 credits Core	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	
CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	CREMS Option Module 20 credits Option	

Postgraduate Certificate PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies [Core] (20 credits)	CREMS Option (20 credits)	

Year Two:

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

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

Summative Assessments

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Wk 10 Core Assessed Essay	Wk 2 AuT Option Assessed Essay	Wk1 SpT Option 1 Assessed Essay	End SuVac ISM Dissertation	AuT Wk 7
	Wk 10 Dissertation Proposal	Wk1 SpT Option 2 Assessed Essay	<i>End SuVac Diploma Long Essay Assessed Essay</i>	

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
		Wk 2 Dissertation Proposal		AuT Wk 7
		Wk 10 Core Assessed Essay		
		Wk 10 AuT & SpT Options Assessed Essay		

Boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
		Wk 6 Progression		AuT Wk 7

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
Approaches to Renaissance and Early Modern Studies	HIS00003M	7/M	20	None	None	AuT Wk 10 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words)	N
MA Research Training Module	HIS00086M	7/M	10	None	P/F	500 word dissertation proposal Submitted SpT wk 10	N
Dissertation	HIS00087M	7/M	90	None	NC	End SuVac – Dissertation (20,000 words max)	Y

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.

Option module table

Students choose one Option Module in the Autumn Term and two Options in the Spring Term from relevant programmes offered by History and its partner departments Archaeology, English and Related Literature, History of Art, Music, Philosophy, Politics, and Theatre, Film and Television. Options are closely based on staff research interests and will, therefore, vary from year to year depending on staff availability. Options for this cohort will be circulated to students before their arrival at York.

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
For a list of modules running this year, current students should see: www.york.ac.uk/crems/postgraduate/masters	Various	7/M	20	None	None	Typically, either: SpT Wk 2 – Assessed Essay for AuT Options Or: SuT Wk 1 – Assessed Essay for SpT Options	N

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Students may transfer into or out of the programme in accordance with University Regulations. Transfers will be dependent upon student numbers and available places.	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
None	
Quality and Standards	
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.	
Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:	
<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. 	
More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	September 2017
Departmental web page:	www.york.ac.uk/history www.york.ac.uk/crems
Please note	
The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning 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.	