

MA(Res) in Modern Italian History
For students entering in 2011/2

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	1 years
Date of specification:	08/Feb/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Postgraduate Studies in Italian Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

Students will acquire a critical awareness and understanding of the main themes and historiographical debates in 19th and 20th century Italian history. They will learn some of the principal methodological and conceptual tools appropriate to postgraduate historical studies, and will be taught to apply these to a significant body of knowledge in the fields of 19th and 20th century Italian political, economic, social and cultural history. They will have an opportunity to develop advanced reading skills in Italian. The MA is intended as preparation for those intending to proceed to research at a doctoral level.

Transferable skills

- The ability to analyse data, and understand causal agents.
- The ability to summarise arguments and process new material.
- The ability to express ideas in a clear and cogent form.
- The ability to think critically and independently.

Programme content

Compulsory Modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
ITMH1	Reform, resistance and revolution: key themes and debates in modern Italian history	30	M
ITMH6	Dissertation	90	M
HSMSR1	Historical skills and resources <i>(20 credits of this module may be replaced with an Italian language module offered through the IWLP (see below). In which case the remaining 10 credits will be supplied by:</i>	30	M
HSMSR2	Historical skills and resources	10	M

Language Modules (one 20-credit module to be chosen)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LA1PI1	Italian Level 1	20	C
LA1PI2	Italian Level 2	20	C

Optional Modules (students are required to choose one Optional Module)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
HSMIH1	Napoleonic Italy and its legacies	30	M
HSMIH2	The Risorgimento: the view from outside	30	M
ITMH2	'Making Italians': the problems of nation building, 1860-1922	30	M
ITMH3	Conflict and control: the South, 1860-1945	30	M
ITMH4	A 'national revolution'?: Italy 1922-45	30	M
ITMH5	Social transformation and political immobility: Italy 1945-92	30	M

An alternative optional module may be agreed to fit in with the research interests of students.

Part-time or modular arrangements

The programme is 12 months full-time. It can also be taken over two years: in the first year students will do HSMSR1, ITMH1, and one optional module; in the second year, the dissertation.

Progression requirements

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees

To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in the module on Historical Skills and Resources. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in the module on Historical Skills and Resources. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more and have no mark below 40 in the module on Historical Skills and Resources. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.*

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Students have the right to one re-sit of any failed element. They may also wish to re-sit a 'failing' element but are not obliged to do so. Taught modules are normally re-examined in September; a failed dissertation is due for re-submission within one year of the original submission date.

Candidates presenting themselves for re-examination are not eligible for the award of a Distinction or Merit.

Assessment and classification

Teaching will be by seminar. Students will be required to make individual presentations on pre-agreed topics as the basis for group discussions. Assessment will be by an assessed essay for each module (approx 5,000 each) and a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words. HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words). If 20 credits are taken in IWLP assessment will be by coursework and examination.

Marks will represent the following bands:

70+: Distinction

60-69: Merit

50-59: Pass

0-49: Fail

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a good first degree. Knowledge of Italian language is not essential, but admission to certain modules may require a good reading knowledge of the language.

Admissions Tutor: Prof Christopher Duggan

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEECC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Career prospects

- Doctoral research leading to an academic career
- Secondary and further education
- Librarianship
- Archivist
- Students who do not wish to pursue a career in which this qualification is a requirement enter many different careers (civil service, commerce, management).

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

In certain circumstances, and with the agreement of the Programme Director, it may be possible to replace one of the options with an approved module taken at an Italian university.

Programme Outcomes

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The principal historiographical debates surrounding 19th and 20th century Italian history.
2. The main political, social, economic and cultural issues relating to selected periods of 19th and 20th century Italian history.
3. The secondary literature, and where appropriate, the printed primary sources, relating to the chosen period or topic.
4. Practical research methods relating to the chosen areas of study.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Teaching will be by seminar.

Learning will be through:

1. the presentation of seminar papers
2. critical discussion of seminar papers
3. critical reading of secondary literature
4. preparation of assessed work

The Core HSMSR1 module gives students practical training in the use of archival and other research resources as well as in the skills relevant to historical research and writing.

The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research skills and their critical understanding of an area relating to their Optional Module.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Show a good understanding of the main themes and historiographical debates in 19th and 20th century Italian history.
2. To use secondary literature critically to support their own arguments and views.
3. To develop a reasoned and empirically well founded approach to the subject matter of their chosen module.
4. To present a coherently argued and well structured defence of their views and interpretations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Teaching will be by seminar.

Learning will be through:

1. the presentation of seminar papers
 2. critical discussion of seminar papers
 3. critical reading of secondary literature
 4. preparation of assessed work
- The Core HSMSR1 module will give students the skills needs to carry out independent enquiry and research.

The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research skills and their critical understanding of an area relating to their Optional Module.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Read and evaluate a variety of secondary sources (and, where required, printed primary sources) in English and Italian.
2. Use research facilities such as the library, archives and the internet appropriately.
3. Organise and focus their own learning and intellectual development.
4. Plan and write a dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The Core HSMSR1 module will enable students to acquire practical skills in empirical research methods and strategies using the library and IT resources.

The other modules will enable students to implement their research skills.

The Dissertation will enable students to prepare, plan and write a sustained piece of original research.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Argue clearly and logically both in writing and in speaking.
2. Use empirical evidence effectively to support

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students read, analyse and discuss a wide variety of texts and issues for seminars and essays. Undertake directed and independent research.

- arguments.
3. Analyse and evaluate data from a variety of sources.
 4. Be aware of different possible causes and explanations of change.
 5. Develop postgraduate level study, research and writing skills.

Seminar presentations and written essays will develop student abilities to present information and analysis in oral and written form.

Students are introduced to a broad range of research resources.

Possibilities for further postgraduate study at PhD level are discussed where appropriate.

Assessment

HSMSR1 will be assessed by an essay (4,000 words).

All other modules will be assessed by an essay of approx 5,000 words.

The Dissertation will be of 10,000-15,000 words and should be submitted by 20 September.

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 expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.

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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.