



Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Welcome



Welcome to Liberal Arts in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. We are proud to be the lead department for Liberal Arts, a distinctive course run in co-operation with other departments at Royal Holloway. Through our flexible courses, combining core modules and a wide range of options, we help you to develop the sort of skillset that will give you a competitive edge in today's jobs market.

Liberal Arts harnesses some of the best, research-led teaching from across the university, and allows you to tailor your course to your existing interests, or to explore modules in subject areas in which you have no previous experience. Moreover, as a department specialising in teaching and research in Modern Languages we are able to offer you expert tuition in a foreign language during your first year, and perhaps beyond. Your year abroad options include the opportunity to either fully immerse yourself in another language, or to travel to a partner institution and be taught in English.

Whatever you opt for, you can count on us for support throughout your degree. We hope to be able to welcome you on to the course in the near future.

**Dr Fabrizio De Donno**  
Course Director (Liberal Arts)



CORE  
MODULES  
DESIGNED  
SPECIFICALLY FOR  
LIBERAL ARTS  
STUDENTS

## Contact details

### Course enquiries

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### Connect with us

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[royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts)

# Why study Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway?

Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is the ideal degree for students who value flexibility, choice and breadth. Whether you favour arts and humanities subjects such as English, Modern Languages and Music, scientific disciplines such as Biology, Economics and Mathematics, or wish to study as widely as possible, Liberal Arts allows you to choose modules from a wide variety of departments and build a degree according to your own interests.

At the heart of the degree are core modules that introduce and develop interdisciplinary approaches to a wide range of issues. By the end of your studies you will leave with exceptional skills in critical enquiry, flexibility of thought, and clarity of expression.

Having fluency or knowledge of a second language is a valuable skill that will be attractive to future employers. You will learn French, German, Italian or Spanish in your first year which you can pursue throughout your studies if you wish.

If you continue your language you can spend an integrated year abroad developing your language skills at a university, as a teaching assistant or at a work placement as part of the four-year degree course. It is also possible to complete an integral year abroad at a university where the language of instruction is English through the four year 'Liberal Arts with an International Year' course.

This is an exciting and challenging degree, but you will find support and a home in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.



“Studying Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is an extremely immersive experience. Through the countless options available in a wide range of departments, I’ve had the chance to experience so many different subjects and meet lots of people.

The independence and dedication needed to work across a wide variety of subjects are valuable skills admired by employers. Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway has been challenging, but has pushed me to become a better student and future employee.”

**Rebecca**  
BA Liberal Arts

# Choosing your degree

DEGREES	UCAS code	Duration
BA Liberal Arts	Y000	3 years
BA Liberal Arts with an International Year	Y001	4 years
BA Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad	Y002	4 years
BA Liberal Arts with Integrated Foundation Year	Y00F	4 years



## What you'll learn

You will be able to select modules from a wide range of departments, so what you learn will be unique and different from every other student on the course. However, there are a few common features.

All students on the Liberal Arts course take a foreign language in their first year (either from scratch or building upon previous competences). You may choose to pursue that language through the rest of your degree.

You will also take core modules with an emphasis on group work and presentations. In your first year, 'Cultural Encounters' gives you a strong foundation upon which to base your study of particular disciplines and also helps you think about how to bring different disciplines into conversation with each other. In year two the core module 'Power & Dissent' focuses on visual and verbal communication in culture and politics. In your final year, you will undertake an independent research project to write a dissertation.

By the end of the course you will have at least a basic grasp of a foreign language, knowledge of a wide range of disciplines, strong oral and written communication skills, and the techniques and skills necessary for interdisciplinary work.

**BA Liberal Arts with an International Year** includes an additional year (Year 3) at one of our international partner universities in countries including Australia, Canada and the USA.

For students continuing their language study beyond their first year, **BA Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad** offers an additional year (Year 3) spent at one of our partner universities, or in an approved work placement. Possible destinations for the Year Abroad include France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Austria and Latin American countries including Mexico and Argentina.

# Studying here

At the heart of what makes a Liberal Arts degree so rewarding is the freedom to choose modules from many different departments to create a course that is unique to you.

Departments offering modules to Liberal Arts students typically include:

- Biological Sciences
- Classics
- Drama, Theatre & Dance
- Economics
- English
- Geography
- History
- Languages, Literatures and Cultures
- Law, Criminology and Sociology
- Mathematics
- Media Arts
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics and International Relations

Please note that although the university will keep changes to a minimum, new units may be offered or existing units may be withdrawn, for example, in response to a change in staff. Applicants will be informed if any significant changes need to be made. For a full list of available modules please visit [royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts)



# Student life

Student life at Royal Holloway centres on our beautiful 135 acre campus.

Liberal Arts students have the unique opportunity to sample life in a range of different departments, which offers both social and academic advantages. You can take full advantage of the wide range of student-run clubs and societies, which cover academic and other interests including languages, politics, creative arts and culture.

Within the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, a number of societies organise a great range of activities including film screenings, performances of plays, parties, study trips and short breaks to European destinations. If all the activity on campus is still not enough for you, then, of course, the many attractions and multicultural life of central London are close at hand whilst our proximity to Heathrow Airport and Waterloo and St Pancras stations makes trips to Europe, and beyond, extremely easy.



The Exhibition Space in the Emily Wilding Davison Building



Drama performance on campus



Student year abroad photograph of Port de Cassis, France.

# Your future career

Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is designed to prepare you for a future career, by giving you the transferable skills, breadth of experience and adaptability that many employers seek.

- Your modules will develop practical general skills such as the ability to work in a team, independent research skills, and confidence in oral presentation.
- You will develop a problem-solving attitude and the capacity to engage in contemporary debates on global challenges.
- You'll also have specific skills, including knowledge of a foreign language.



“Since beginning my degree at Royal Holloway, I have had nothing but great experiences.

I would highly recommend Liberal Arts if you do not yet have a singular academic interest or if you are interested in wholeheartedly seeking out all the possible opportunities that Royal Holloway can provide.

By studying multiple topics – including psychology, Spanish, politics, philosophy, and social work - I have been able to effectively discover a career path that I know I'll enjoy!.”

**Abigail**

BA Liberal Arts

We enhance your employability by working closely with Royal Holloway's Careers and Employability Service, which provides tailored events and advice. We also encourage you to take advantage of work experience opportunities, for example by participating in Royal Holloway's Community Action volunteering programme. Liberal Arts students have the opportunity to apply for micro-placements in their second year in their major fields of interest.



This brochure was produced in September 2020 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



### Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world-leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

### Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at [royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)

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