

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MRes in Humanities (History) MRes in Humanities (English) MRes in Humanities (Music) MRes in Humanities (Media, Communication and Culture) MRes in Humanities (Film)
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £9,800</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2024/25 is £5,400*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £19,500</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The Master of Research (MRes) in Humanities is taught within the School of Humanities, which is part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The MRes in the Humanities offers a number of discipline-specific pathways (English, Film, History, Media, Music) which allows a student to pursue research in their field, but set in the wider, interdisciplinary framework of the Humanities.

The School of Humanities also offers postgraduate taught programmes in the discipline areas of Creative Writing; English Literature; Film; History; Media, Communication and Culture; and Music.

This programme offers students the opportunity to produce a substantial piece of independent research and writing and to develop wide-ranging research skills. It forms an excellent foundation for doctoral (PhD) work. It is also ideal for students who wish to undertake an independent research project for personal and professional development. It encourages practical, analytical and critical research skills and project management capacities relevant to a variety of professional and intellectual contexts.

3. Aims of the programme

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in:

1. Key methods and concepts relevant to Humanities
2. Generic and subject specific research skills and methods relevant to the Humanities
3. How to construct, develop and write an extended dissertation, portfolio or project based on independent research.
4. The sources and resources available for the dissertation, portfolio or project and of the methodological debates relevant to it.

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

1. Reason critically at an advanced level
2. Apply concepts relevant to the Humanities at an advanced level
3. Identify and solve problems at an advanced level
4. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level
5. Find, assess, evaluate and select information from a variety of sources
6. Plan and produce a piece of research, based on a relevant and adequate bibliography
7. Apply key methods and concepts relevant to the Humanities
8. Structure and communicate complex ideas effectively, both orally and in writing
9. Manage time and work to deadlines
10. Participate constructively and critically in groups
11. Work independently and innovatively, and be self-reliant
12. Find information and use IT
13. Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others

4. What you will learn

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

Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key methods and concepts relevant to Humanities
2. Generic and subject specific research skills and methods relevant to the Humanities
3. How to construct, develop and write an extended dissertation, portfolio or project based on independent research.
4. The sources and resources available for the dissertation, portfolio or project and of the methodological debates relevant to it.

Intellectual skills:

Students should be able to:

1. Reason critically at an advanced level
2. Apply concepts relevant to the Humanities at an advanced level
3. Identify and solve problems at an advanced level
4. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level

Practical skills:

Students learn to draw on a range of skills required to produce a piece of research at postgraduate level, including the following:

1. Find, assess, evaluate and select information from a variety of sources
2. Plan and produce a piece of research, based on a relevant and adequate bibliography
3. Apply key methods and concepts relevant to the Humanities

Transferable skills:

Students will be able to:

1. Structure and communicate complex ideas effectively, both orally and in writing
2. Manage time and work to deadlines
3. Participate constructively and critically in groups
4. Work independently and innovatively, and be self-reliant
5. Find information and use IT
6. Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others

The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical awareness**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

The MRes in Humanities combines a number of different teaching modes. The Research Training modules (Research Skills in the Humanities and Reflective Practice in the Humanities) are delivered through sessions led by a range of academics from different disciplinary backgrounds. Other teaching mechanisms include seminars and small group discussions, and sometimes individual presentation. The Individual Research Orientation is a tailored module, with bespoke delivery modes. It involves further training relevant to the specific topic, as arranged individually with the dissertation supervisor (e.g. palaeography), or through attendance on specific modules in and beyond the School such as modern foreign language modules or the School's US Summer School at a North American University; there is also a possibility of completing a work placement for the Individual Research Orientation. The Dissertation is delivered through your supervisor.

The combination of different delivery modes equips students for the next phase of research or professional career by providing experience of multi-method and multi-disciplinary approaches.

6. Teaching Staff

The MRes is taught by staff in the School of Humanities. Full details and their individual profiles can be found at www.keele.ac.uk/humanities/.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

Students take 180 credits in total. The programme lasts 1 year for full-time students and 2 years for part-time students. The optional modules are discipline-specific modules on theoretical approaches to research and an Individual Research Orientation module designed to enhance each individual student's research needs. This may involve language training or further research training and exploration in the student's chosen field. Part-time students will normally take these modules in their first year. The compulsory modules that all students take are the dissertation and research training modules. Part-time students will normally take these modules in their second year.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	30	150	150

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research Skills in the Humanities	HIS-40017	15	Semester 1
Reflective Practice in the Humanities	HIS-40016	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Criticism, analysis, theory in literary studies	ENG-40007	30	Semester 1
Film Theory	FIL-40001	30	Semester 1
Approaches to historical research	HIS-40002	30	Semester 1
Cultural Theory	MDS-40001	30	Semester 1
Approaches to music research	MUS-40001	30	Semester 1
English - Individual research orientation	ENG-40014	30	Semester 1-2
Individual Research Orientation (Film)	FIL-40002	30	Semester 1-2
History - Individual research orientation	HIS-40010	30	Semester 1-2
Individual Research Orientation	MDS-40003	30	Semester 1-2
Music - Individual research orientation	MUS-40003	30	Semester 1-2
Dissertation - English 90	ENG-40013	90	Year 1
MRes Dissertation (Film)	FIL-40003	90	Year 1
Dissertation - History 90	HIS-40009	90	Year 1
MRes Humanities (MCC) Dissertation	MDS-40002	90	Year 1
Dissertation - Music 90	MUS-40002	90	Year 1

Level 7 Module Rules

Module selection:

- In addition to the compulsory modules listed in the table above, students must take a **Dissertation** module and an '**Individual Research Orientation**' module appropriate to their subject.
- Dissertation modules: alternatively, for students in Media, Communication and Culture and in Music, alternative assessment modes are used.
 - Media: Media Project may be chosen, supervised by a member of the discipline. The nature of this project and balance between practical and critical components will be negotiated and agreed with the supervisor and approved by the appropriate research committee, but at least 25% of the submitted work will comprise an accompanying critical essay.
 - Music: one of the following:
 1. A portfolio of compositions (ca. 20 - 25 minutes), supervised by a member of the discipline. The compositions may be acoustic, electroacoustic and/or audiovisual.
 2. A recital lasting approximately one hour, supervised by a member of the discipline.
 3. A Music Technology project, supervised by a member of the discipline. This may consist of purely technological development (e.g. software) or of a combination of technological development and compositions demonstrating the use of the latter. The nature of the project and balance between technological and musical components will be agreed with the supervisor and approved by the appropriate research committee.
- Where appropriate to the research topic, up to 30 credits of other relevant training can be substituted for the 'Individual Research Orientation'. Modules can be taken from other Master's programmes. Methods of assessment and submission dates must be agreed with the supervisor and Director.

Part-time structure

An indicative programme structure for the part-time option is as follows:

Year 1

The 30-credit optional module depending on their pathway

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Criticism, analysis, theory in literary studies	ENG-40007	30	Semester 1
Film Theory	FIL-40001	30	Semester 1
Approaches to historical research	HIS-40002	30	Semester 1
Cultural Theory	MDS-40001	30	Semester 1
Approaches to music research	MUS-40001	30	Semester 1

And

The 30-credit Individual Research Orientation modules, according to their pathway

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
English - Individual research orientation	ENG-40014	30	Semester 1-2
Individual Research Orientation (Film)	FIL-40002	30	Semester 1-2
History - Individual research orientation	HIS-40010	30	Semester 1-2
Individual Research Orientation	MDS-40003	30	Semester 1-2
Music - Individual research orientation	MUS-40003	30	Semester 1-2

Year 2

All pathways:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research Skills in the Humanities	HIS-40017	15	Semester 1
Reflective Practice in the Humanities	HIS-40016	15	Semester 2

And the dissertation module, according to pathway:

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation - English 90	ENG-40013	90	Semester 1-3
MRes Dissertation (Film)	FIL-40003	90	Semester 1-3
Dissertation - History 90	HIS-40009	90	Semester 1-3
MRes Humanities (MCC) Dissertation	MDS-40002	90	Semester 1-3
Dissertation - Music 90	MUS-40002	90	Semester 1-3

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Aware of central ideas and issues within the Humanities	Reflective Practice in the Humanities - HIS-40016
Able to draw distinctions between major paradigms in literary criticism and cultural and critical theory, and confident in applying such theory to a range of literary texts, including those related to their individual research proposal	Criticism, analysis, theory in literary studies - ENG-40007
Able to understand the methodological debates within the discipline of history - they will make a short presentation at the end of the course and submit an essay, usually relating to the methodological or source/resource issues at stake in their particular topic	Approaches to historical research - HIS-40002
Able to understand the main sources for particular topics and will consider how they should be interpreted in the context of current historiographical thinking	Approaches to historical research - HIS-40002
Introduced to the theory and practice of reading culture in general as well as various specific forms and modes of cultural self- representation	Cultural Theory - MDS-40001
Introduced to methodological debates within the discipline of music and music technology	Approaches to music research - MUS-40001

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Encouraged to combine directed reading with individual research planning	Individual Research Orientation module
Able to plan, research and write a dissertation / project of c. 20,000 words, supervised by a member of the relevant discipline	Dissertation module

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Familiar with the relevant University regulations and procedures for management of a research degree as well as identifying any issues of research ethics affecting their work	Research Skills in the Humanities - HIS-40017
Introduced to various techniques of project management so as to successfully complete their research in the appropriate time	Research Skills in the Humanities - HIS-40017
Introduced to different research methodologies and writing techniques and encouraged to analyse and improve	Research Skills in the Humanities - HIS-40017
Encouraged to analyse and improve their bibliographic skills and introduced to the most important aspects of information management and retrieval in their general subject area	Reflective Practice in the Humanities - HIS-40016
Encouraged to explore the intellectual connections between their research area and wider fields of study	Reflective Practice in the Humanities - HIS-40016

8. Final and intermediate awards

MRes	180 credits	You will require the successful completion of 180 credits (including 90 credits from a dissertation/research project)
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	You will require the successful completion of 120 taught module credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	You will require the successful completion of 60 taught module credits

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

You will be assessed on a very wide range of skills, and there is obviously no single model of academic excellence. Nevertheless, tutors will be looking in particular for evidence of the following abilities:

- Research excellence as evidenced in the quality of the material located and selected.
- The ability to produce clearly structured and coherently argued written work.
- Critical analysis of existing scholarly interpretations.
- Analytical depth in evaluating primary sources.
- The quality of your bibliographic and presentational skills.
- Writing skills, as evidenced in the production of effective, thoughtful, sensitive and interesting prose.
- The academic commitment and engagement you bring to your chosen topic

Students are supported by a number of different formative assessments according to each discipline. Students are encouraged to write reports of research seminars they attend, to present their research proposals within their discipline cohort and to the wider humanities community in annual research symposia and to attend dissertation workshops to develop writing skills.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

- The relevant Course Handbook will provide you with key information and guidance on structure, content and assessment, including dates for submission of your assessments for the period of your chosen course. It will also provide you with guidance on some study skills.
- You will be supported by your PGT Programme Director who will guide you to a relevant supervisor, module choice and other academic decisions.
- You will be provided academic support by your academic mentor, in line with University Code of Practice for Academic Mentoring.
- You will be provided pastoral and wellbeing support by the University's Student Services, <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/student-services/>.
- You will be supported by your dissertation supervisor who you will be encouraged to meet regularly.
- You will receive substantive feedback on your formative and summative assessment by module convenors.
- You will have open access to the MRes Director by telephone, e-mail, or Teams during office hours.
- You will have access to the Research Training Coordinator during the research training sessions, by telephone, e-mail, or Teams.

- You will have access to other Students, Course Tutors and course materials within the University's Online learning environment, the 'KLE' (Keele Learning Environment).
- You will have access to Keele's Library Information Services on campus and via the internet.
- You will have IT support from the University's central IT services.

14. Learning Resources

The School of Humanities brings together researchers in the fields of Creative Writing, Film, English, History, Media, Communications and Culture, and Music and Music Technology to strengthen and sustain high-quality, innovative and inter-disciplinary research at Keele. It hosts an exciting range of intellectual and creative conferences, colloquia and seminars, as well as international academic conferences. In addition, its series of seminars, research-led music recitals, and workshops contribute to regional and national scholarly networks. The School of Humanities fosters a high quality, supportive and managed research environment for both individual researchers and teams of collaborative researchers, including postgraduate researchers in the Humanities.

The David Bruce Centre for American Studies - All postgraduate students interested in American literature, history and culture are members of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies. Its substantial endowment supports the purchase of research materials, research travel and international research exchanges. Various kinds of financial support, including bursaries, research travel grants and interlibrary loan vouchers, are available for postgraduate students working in American history, literature, and culture via the David Bruce Centre.

The principal functions of the Centre are:

- To encourage and disseminate research and knowledge of the United States and North America
- To raise the profile of American Studies research through financial assistance to active researchers; fostering of a research culture by means of seminars, travel grants and bursaries; promotion of colloquia, occasional lectures and small exhibits; purchase of research materials
- To promote the study of the United States and North America within and beyond the academic community.

In addition the David Bruce Centre hosts a regular series of seminars given by distinguished visiting scholars. Seminars normally take place on Wednesday afternoons and provide a means to meet, question, and debate with some of the leading scholars of American history, culture, literature, and politics.

Media, Culture and Communication students work in a designated 24-hour access building with laboratory space, studios, kit, recreational space and a screening room.

The Music students have access to a number of facilities:

Two recording studios, two multi-media project studios, three computer music labs, eight practice rooms, (including one specifically for drummers) a Motion Capture facility with Octaphonic audio and two large rehearsal space (including the Keele University Chapel) for orchestras, bands and choirs.

Studios - key facts:

- Various studio areas for sound recording, mixing and mastering, surround sound, computer music composition, sound design, MIDI sequencing, audio-visual editing, film and videogames scoring
- 24/7 access to the studios via electronic key system
- Genelec professional studio monitors on all studios, labs and lecture rooms
- Lots of studio time available to students
- Technical support at hand, on site

Practice rooms - key facts:

- All provided with piano, five with grand pianos
- Dedicated room for drummers, with drum-kit
- Church organ in the Chapel
- 24/7 access to the practice rooms via electronic key system

The Music and Music Technology facilities are housed within three sites, all within walking distance:

1. The Clock House, an early nineteenth century building of great character, originally conceived as a gardener's cottage and stable block. It was re-designed to create purpose-built studios for Music Technology, practice rooms, teaching spaces and offices for staff. There are two DAW computer labs, two project studios and one sound recording studio available in this building.
2. Lindsay Studios, adjacent to the Music Department. The complex houses two large lecture areas with multimedia presentations and projection facilities. A modern recording studio is attached to a live room, a new isolation recording booth and large performance space. The studio can be used to record anything from a small band to a full orchestra.
3. The Chapel, located in the heart of Campus, hosts a church organ, a grand piano and an upright piano. The

chapel is used for orchestra rehearsals, performances and recitals.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- the extensive collection of materials held by the University Library. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password
- Teams and the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provide easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

The School of Humanities and the wider Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences organise regular seminars throughout the year at which Keele staff, students and visiting scholars present their latest research findings. These offer a vital opportunity to engage with emerging scholarship and to participate in intellectual exchange. They also foster a sense of belonging to a research community; of vital importance given the occasionally solitary nature of individual research.

Postgraduate Symposium - There is an annual Postgraduate Symposium which is designed to help to develop skills and confidence in presenting research material, to encourage an active graduate research culture, and to provide the opportunity for presenting a first paper. Details and calls for papers will be announced in the second semester.

Postgraduate students are eligible to apply to the Turing Fund, which provides grants for international study opportunities.

A dissertation workshop is organised in the second semester to help prepare for dissertation writing.

16. Additional Costs

Keele Library and online resources will provide the key texts that students need to complete their degree. However, depending on the dissertation topic that you choose, there may be some additional costs incurred for some research materials or texts.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. Students undertaking a work placement may incur travel costs in association with that placement. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>
- c. The Arts and Humanities Research Council Research Training Framework, accessed [here](#)

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 10 June 2024

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2023/24	IAN ATHERTON	17 April 2023	
1	2022/23	IAN ATHERTON	16 June 2022	
1	2021/22	SHALINI SHARMA	03 May 2022	
1	2020/21	SHALINI SHARMA	03 May 2022	