



1. Programme Title(s):

MA in The Country House: Art, History and Literature by Distance Learning

Postgraduate Diploma in The Country House: Art, History and Literature by Distance Learning

Postgraduate Certificate in The Country House: Art, History and Literature by Distance Learning

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Part-time

b) Type of study

Distance-Learning

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is two years

The maximum period of registration is four years

5. Typical entry requirements:

A good degree - normally 2:1 or equivalent [GPA of 3 or higher for N. American applicants] - in a first degree in any relevant discipline. Those without such a degree, but with experience in related fields, particularly in some aspect of the 'Heritage Industry' may be required to satisfy the Course Director and Admissions Tutor in a qualifying essay that they will be able to work confidently at post-graduate level. Applicants whose first language is not English must meet the University's requirements in their ELTS (or equivalent) score.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

N/A

7. Programme aims:

1. To deepen students' understanding of the place of the country house and its gardens and landscapes, as a consumption centre, as a centre for ideas, as a generator and 'consumer' of architectural and artistic activity and as a centre for land management.
2. To foster the ability to cross disciplinary boundaries and to work flexibly and intelligently beyond those of the students' first degrees.
3. To equip students with detailed knowledge of aspects of the country house, notably eighteenth-century architecture; gardens; and furniture.
4. To prepare students for future careers/career development and/or postgraduate research by enhancing the following transferable skills: accessing, retrieving, organising and presenting information from a variety of secondary and primary sources; thinking clearly and independently; presenting complex ideas and sophisticated arguments clearly and effectively in written forms; writing work to a professional standard and to deadlines; effectively solving technical and intellectual problems; working with others in gathering, analysing and discussing information; managing and organising time; using modern IT to access and retrieve information.

For those taking the MA in the Country House only, the aims are as above plus: to equip students with the knowledge and skills to design, plan and undertake an independent research project leading

to the writing of a dissertation on an aspect of the Country House. This work will equip students for PGR research, should they wish to undertake it.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

QAA Benchmarking statement for History of Art

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/HAAD08.pdf>

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

University of Leicester Learning & Teaching Strategy

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>

University of Leicester Academic Review Report

First Destination Survey

Graduate Survey

External Examiners' Reports

External Referees Report (obtained for prior/delayed 15/30 programme)

Annual Development Review QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy

9. QAA Benchmark statement for History of Art and Film Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Developed knowledge of the social, cultural and economic history of the Country House	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Private study.	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation (MA students only)</i> <i>Participation in discussion threads [unassessed]</i>
Concepts		
Ability to identify, describe and apply different historical and theoretical approaches to the study of the Country House	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Private study.	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation (MA students only)</i> <i>Participation in discussion threads</i>
Techniques		
Information retrieval, advanced IT, writing skills, group work, bibliographic skills	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Private study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation proposal and dissertation (MA students only)</i>
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Private study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation proposal and dissertation (MA students only)</i>
Use critical skills of visual observation, description and interpretation		

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Presentation		
Ability to present written materials to publication/conference standard; to distinguish between the relevant and irrelevant and to present clear and persuasive written and oral arguments	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Independent guided study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation proposal and dissertation (MA students only)</i>
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex architectural, artistic, conceptual, historical and textual issues, to assess the significance and relevance of a wide range of primary and secondary sources and to develop and sustain an independent argument at an advanced level.	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Independent guided study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation (MA only)</i> <i>Participation in discussion threads (all students)</i>
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Progressive improvement in the ability to locate, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings, analyse complex ideas and discuss them in essays. Pursue independent research in the field; construct a research proposal including identification of research question(s) and methodological apparatus (MA students only).	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Independent guided study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation proposal and dissertation (MA only)</i>
Communication skills		
Ability to communicate ideas and information in a manner appropriate for postgraduate study; present both a concise overview of a subject, and a more detailed examination of specific areas; devise a critical framework/structure for the dissemination of information and the presentation of argument and evidence. Ability to write clearly and cogently	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Discussion boards. Independent guided study	<i>Essays (all students)</i> <i>Dissertation (MA only)</i>
Data presentation		
Ability to present work clearly and observing appropriate scholarly conventions; ability to summarise complex theoretical arguments clearly and concisely; ability to analyse evidence and arguments in a critical and lucid manner. <i>Locate data within appropriate historical, intellectual, cultural or institutional contexts</i>	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Independent guided study	<i>Essays , dissertation (MA only)</i>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Working relationships		
Knowing how, and when, to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; comment in discussion threads	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Independent guided study	Unassessed participation in discussion threads
Managing learning		
Identifying crucial issues, identifying a sound research project	Study Guides, including case studies, exercises and further reading. Independent guided study	Essays, dissertation (MA only)
Career management		
Ability to plan learning strategy and further personal goals.	Independent guided study	Successful completion of the programme

10. Special features:

Each module provides course materials in the form of a Study Guide and a Blackboard site. Study guides provide 'tutorials in print', outlines of research questions, guides to further reading and self-assessment exercises. Blackboard will be used for additional information (e.g. news of seminars, public lectures, new publications) and for podcasts. Blackboard will also be used for tutor-moderated discussion boards on each week's study topic.

The structure of the programme is such that students study modules one at a time in a linear pattern. Students progress from one module to the next following a set timetable of study, providing students with a clear study framework. The course allows students to study at a reasonable pace, in their own location and at a time suitable for them within this framework. The MA dissertation offers as a research pathway for potential PGR students.

11. Indications of programme quality:

The programme specification has been drawn up in accordance with the Qualification Descriptors for Master's Degrees (levels and skills). The benchmarking statement's emphasis on interdisciplinarity and diversity is addressed through the input of staff from different academic subject areas, explicitly and specifically in the first module. The programme conforms to the subject knowledge section of the statement in respect of attention to the formal properties and aesthetics of country houses, the political and economic background which supported their construction and continued existence or destruction, and issues of representation, contestation and ideology. The emphasis on readings of key texts will fulfil the requirement to engage with 'major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms' that have informed the subject. The programme comprises four commissioned modules, written by experts in the field. Modules have been edited and quality-reviewed internally, have undergone external review, and were approved by the Head of Department.

12. External examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found [here](#).

13. Scheme of Assessment

As defined in the University's Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Students
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

14. Progression points

As defined in the University's Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Students (part of the [General Regulations for Taught Programmes](#))

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

15. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

As defined in the University's Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Students <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

16. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

The course begins in February; subsequent taught modules will be presented in June, October, and February the next year. The dissertation module becomes available in June; students complete their dissertations between June and January the next year. Students will then go through the next available exam board and normally graduate in July.

The course is especially suited to graduates intending to undertake M.Phil or Ph.D research on some aspect of the Country House but will also be of interest to those wishing to upgrade an Arts or Social Science first degree.

Our partners in the Lamport Hall Preservation Trust normally offer one bursary p.a.

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

M.A. in the Country House by Distance Learning

Period	Module Code	Module Title	Credits
Feb – May	HA7510	The Country House in History	30
Jun – Sep	HA7508	Country-House Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Oct – Jan	HA7503	The Country House and its Landscapes	30
Feb – May	HA7509	Furnishing the Country House in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Jun - Jan	HA7500	Research Methods and Dissertation	60
Total Credits			180

Postgraduate Diploma in the Country House by Distance Learning

Period	Module Code	Module Title	Credits
Feb – May	HA7510	The Country House in History	30
Jun – Sep	HA7508	Country-House Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Oct – Jan	HA7503	The Country House and its Landscapes	30
Feb – May	HA7509	Furnishing the Country House in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Total Credits			120

Postgraduate Certificate in the Country House by Distance Learning

Period	Module Code	Module Title	Credits
Feb – May	HA7510	The Country House in History AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	30

Jun – Sep	HA7508	Country-House Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Oct – Jan	HA7503*	The Country House and its Landscapes	30
Feb – May	HA7509*	Furnishing the Country House in Eighteenth-Century Britain	30
Total Credits			60

*Students choosing HA7503 or HA7509 as their second module would need to suspend their studies for 4 or 8 months respectively before their chosen module can start.

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>