

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	MA
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	MA East Asian History MA East Asian History with Chinese MA East Asian History with Japanese MA East Asian History and Chinese MA East Asian History and Japanese
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	4095, 4096, 4097, 4098, 4099
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	N/A
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	7
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	27/5/11

**10 Programme Aims**

- 1 To provide students with a range of learning opportunities (in relation to analytical, key, research and subject-specific skills) within the field of East Asian history.
- 2 To provide a curriculum that is responsive to the needs of students holding Master's funding from the AHRC.
- 3 To enable students to develop their capacity to learn as part of lifelong learning.
- 4 To provide access to Higher Education to students from a variety of educational backgrounds, and to provide a bridge to further postgraduate qualifications.
- 5 To provide students with the opportunity to gain the basic skills and knowledge required to continue with academic research in East Asian history or related fields of history or Area Studies at PhD level, or to enter the workplace in one of a variety of professions requiring high levels of skills such as literacy, research and project management.
- 6 To expose students to cutting-edge research environments in the sphere of East Asian history and encourage engagement by students with current staff research.
- 7 That the programme meets the requirements of a Master's level qualification as defined by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
- 8 That the programme conforms to University policies and to QAA codes of practice

**11 Learning Outcomes**

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****Intellectual Skills****Practical Skills****Transferable/Key Skills**

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
On completing the programme students should achieve understanding of:	
A1	East Asian history from a variety of chronological and thematic perspectives, and detailed specialist knowledge of at least one East Asian country in its regional context.
A2	The theoretical and interpretive perspectives of historians, with particular relevance to East Asian history.
A3	The methodologies and sources available to historians of East Asia, and the phonetic, syntactic, and orthographic systems of Chinese/Japanese to a standard one level higher than that on entry.
A4	The detailed knowledge and analytical skills which come from undertaking a sustained original piece of research in East Asian history (a dissertation).
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	
<p>Group seminars, individual tutorials for the return of coursework, and self-directed learning. Structured interactions (email, phone, skype) will be used to support students who will carry out dissertation work remotely.</p> <p>The primary method of imparting knowledge and understanding is seminars, supplemented by occasional lectures, individual tutorials for the return of coursework, and self-directed learning (to facilitate the development of a comprehensive understanding and critical awareness of current research and advanced scholarship).</p> <p>Throughout the programme students are encouraged to read widely and bibliographies are supplied. Students make use of a wide range of learning resources, including books and journal articles in the Robinson Library and at Durham University Library, primary sources held at Newcastle, Durham or in other libraries, online resources and databases available via the Robinson Library.</p>	
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>	
<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through written essays or research assignments for each module, and through the final dissertation. Marks will be awarded for evidence of knowledge attained, as well as evidence that the student has achieved an appropriate level of understanding of the methodologies and sources used by specialists in this field.</p>	
<b>Intellectual Skills</b>	
On completing the programme students should have acquired advanced skills in:	
B1	Critical reasoning
B2	Gathering and using information
B3	Applying concepts
B4	Evaluation, analysis, and interpretation
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	
<p>Modules are taught by a number of professional historians who research in the area about which they teach. Group work provides the students with the opportunity to develop and practice their subject specific and generic skills.</p>	
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>	
<p>Assessment of knowledge and understanding is by use of coursework (including essays, bibliographical assessments, in-course tests, research project work and dissertation, oral or poster presentations), including essay questions and commentary on primary sources as appropriate to the module. The mix of coursework varies as appropriate to the module but most modules include some aspect of formative assessment during the module in addition to the summative assessment.</p>	

<b>Practical Skills</b>	
On completing the programme students should have:	
C1	developed an ability to record, evaluate, analyse and interpret different sources of historical evidence
C2	Developed the ability to undertake higher degree research through completion of short pieces of written work and a dissertation;
C3	Practised a range of subject-specific skills such as such as the marshalling of evidence, presenting a balanced written argument, and location and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources (including in Chinese/Japanese where appropriate);
C4	Acquired the ability to: a) demonstrate receptive (reading and listening) and productive (writing and speaking) skills in Chinese/Japanese to a standard one level higher than on entry; b) perform a range of communicative tasks suitable to their language level; c) demonstrate mediating skills suitable to their language level, with an emphasis on the ability to translate texts relevant to their historical studies from the target language; d) make effective use of language reference materials, such as grammars, dictionaries and corpora; e) and practice independent language learning.
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	
<p>All taught historical modules include seminars, lectures and tutorials delivered by professional historians and practitioners who research and work in the subjects on which they lecture. These will provide an advanced survey of the state of knowledge and enable students to develop a comprehensive understanding and critical awareness of specific topics relating to current research and advanced scholarship. All contributors use a wide range of examples from their own fields of expertise.</p> <p>Group work related to lectures provides students with the opportunity to develop and practise their subject-specific and generic skills through, for example, preparation for and oral contribution to seminars and presentations.</p> <p>Research training, tutorials, guided reading, feedback on outline proposals, and continuous supervision provide the basis for students to complete their dissertations.</p>	
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>	
<p>All historical assignments include an element of assessment related to the understanding of subject-specific skills. Students are encouraged through the research logs compiled for training modules to reflect on their own research in relation to the attainment of transferable skills, in either the pursuit of further postgraduate research or in the wider workplace.</p>	
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>	
On completing the programme students should be able to demonstrate a high level of skill in:	
D1	Written communication
D2	Interpersonal/oral communication
D3	Teamwork
D4	Planning and organisation
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	
<p>In specific research training modules, students will be introduced to the following skills: how to plan and execute a piece of historical research; effective oral communication techniques; team working; keeping to programme deadlines.</p>	

### Assessment Strategy

Written communication is assessed in each of the modules on this programme. Assignments will be mostly essay-based, reflecting the dominance of this form of writing within the discipline, but other written work may be set, such as writing a research log, or compiling an annotated bibliography as part of a research assignment.

Interpersonal/oral communication, individually and as part of a team is a critical part of the teaching and learning experience for this programme, e.g. during group seminars, in individual feedback sessions, and in oral examinations for language modules.

Planning and organization is practised throughout the programme through the student's ability to meet deadlines, engage in self-directed language coursework, and successfully complete the programme.

## 12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

### Basic structure of the programme

The programme may be taken on a full time or part time basis. All students must take a total of 120 credits of taught modules, which are offered in Semesters 1 and 2. A part-time route through the programme will be decided on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Degree Programme Director.

All students enrolled in programmes **4095, 4096 or 4097** take the following compulsory modules:

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Credits Sem 3	Level	Type
HIS8061	The Practice of History	20	20			7	
HIS8055	Keywords in East Asian History	20	20			7	
HIS8098	Research Skills and Dissertation Training	20	10	10		7	
HIS8023	Dissertation	60			60	7	
HIS8001	Identities and Material Culture in East Asian History	20		20		7	

(e) All candidates shall take the remaining 40 credits in their chosen language strand from the following list as compulsory modules after undergoing language testing to determine the candidate's starting level and in consultation with the DPD:

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Credits Sem 3	Level	Type
CHN1003	Level A Chinese I	20	20			4	
CHN1004	Level A Chinese II	20		20		4	
JPN1003	Level A Japanese I	20	20			4	
JPN1004	Level A Japanese II	20		20		4	
CHN2001	Level B Chinese	40	20	20		4	
JPN2001	Level B Japanese	40	20	20		4	
CHN4001	Level C Chinese	40	20	20		6	
JPN4001	Level C Japanese	40	20	20		6	

In Semester 3, all students take: *Dissertation* [60 credits].

All students enrolled in programmes **4098 or 4099** take the following compulsory modules:

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Credits Sem 3	Level	Type
HIS8055	Keywords in East Asian History	20	20			7	
HIS8098	Research Skills and Dissertation Training	20	10	10		7	
HIS8059	Dissertation (using East Asian languages)	60			60	7	
HIS8100	Guided Study in Sources	20		20		7	
HIS8061	The Practice of History	20	20			7	
HIS8001	Identities and Material Culture in East Asian History	20		20		7	

(e) Candidates shall choose the remaining 20 credits, in consultation with the Degree Programme Director, from MA modules within the faculty of HASS, in either semester one or semester two, or alternatively one of the following may be selected:

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Credits Sem 3	Level	Type
HIS8106	Independent Study Project in History	20	20			7	
HIS8107	Independent Study Project in History	20		20		7	

In Semester 3, all students take: *Dissertation* [60 credits].

#### **Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

The Newcastle MA in East Asian History is a major new opportunity for UK and non-UK graduates to pursue advanced study and research in the **thematic area** of the history of East Asia, with a particular focus on China and Japan. The programme provides a portal for students who have no prior knowledge of the history of East Asia, as well as for those who have previously studied the region and/or its languages, to begin studying East Asian history at an advanced level. Through studying history, historiography and language simultaneously, students will be in a position to consider further postgraduate research, and to develop transferable skills for the workplace.

The Newcastle MA in East Asian History is the only MA in East Asian History available in the UK. The programme:

- Integrates advanced study of history with Chinese or Japanese language at all levels, from beginner to first-degree graduates;
- Offers thematic history modules locating China and Japan in their East Asian context with options to specialise on one country for assessment and dissertation;
- Is taught by a dynamic team of specialist East Asia historians with cutting-edge expertise from the seventh century to the present day;
- Offers pathways to PhD study to suit the language level of individual student;
- Develops advanced skills, regional knowledge and language capabilities that are attractive to employers.

#### **Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/>

### **13 Criteria for admission**

#### *Entry qualifications*

Applicants should normally hold a first degree with at least a 2:1 (Upper Second Class) degree in a humanities or related social science or science subject. Other degree qualifications may be considered where appropriate. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a capacity for language learning, whether through formal qualifications (at least a GCSE at Grade C in any non-native language) or informal acquisition (which will be tested, if deemed necessary, by means of an interview with a reading test and conversation in the target language).

#### *Admissions policy/selection tools*

All applications are seen by the DPD and, where deemed appropriate, another member of staff. All borderline or non-standard applicants may be contacted by letter, email, or phone and further information solicited. Language qualifications in Chinese/Japanese will be considered for the purpose of placing students in the appropriate level of language class; language testing for the same purpose will be conducted where applicants have acquired some language but hold no formal qualifications, and where otherwise deemed appropriate. Applicants may be called for interview to assess the level of their knowledge or experience. All applicants will be offered the chance to meet staff and view facilities.

#### *Non-standard Entry Requirements*

Candidates who have followed a non-traditional route into Higher Education will also be considered eligible.

#### *Additional Requirements*

#### *Level of English Language capability*

We actively encourage applications from overseas and domestic students. All overseas students have to satisfy the University's language requirements and obtain a minimum of 6.5 IELTS or equivalent.

### **14 Support for Student Learning**

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/>

#### *Induction*

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

#### *Study skills support*

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid and help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre (further information is available from the Robinson Library).

#### *Academic support*

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

#### *Pastoral support*

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. In addition the University offers a range of support services, including one-to-one counselling and guidance or group sessions / workshops on a range of topics, such as emotional issues e.g. Stress and anxiety, student finance and budgeting, disability matters etc. There is specialist support available for students with dyslexia and mental health issues. Furthermore, the Union Society operates a Student Advice Centre, which can provide advocacy and support to students on a range of topics including housing, debt, legal issues etc.

#### *Support for students with disabilities*

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

#### *Learning resources*

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange.

### **15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

#### *Module reviews*

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the Board of Studies and/or the School Teaching and Learning Committee. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *Programme reviews*

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. The FTLC takes an overview of all programmes within the Faculty and reports any Faculty or institutional issues to the University Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *External Examiner reports*

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

#### *Student evaluations*

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The results from student surveys are considered as part of the Annual Monitoring and Review of the programme and any arising actions are captured at programme and School / institutional level and reported to the appropriate body.

#### *Mechanisms for gaining student feedback*

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

#### *Faculty and University Review Mechanisms*

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process. Every five years degree programmes in each subject area are subject to periodic review. This involves both the detailed consideration of a range of documentation, and a two-day review visit by a review team which includes an external subject specialist in addition to University and Faculty representatives. Following the review a report is produced, which forms the basis for a decision by University Teaching and Learning Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further five year period.

*Accreditation reports*

*Additional mechanisms*

## **16 Regulation of assessment**

### *Pass mark*

The pass mark is 50%

### *Course requirements*

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees. Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40% is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

#### **Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes**

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

#### **Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes**

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

### *Role of the External Examiner*

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, following recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

- i. See and approve assessment papers
- ii. Moderate examination and coursework marking
- iii. Attend the Board of Examiners
- iv. Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>

The School Brochure <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marketing/services/print/publications/ordering/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

The Degree Programme Handbook



Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

### Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Either

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Compulsory in Bold)
A1	<b>ABC1001</b> , XYZ2002
A2	
A3	
A4	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	

Or

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
HIS8061	Compulsory	1,2,3	2, 3	1,2,3,4	1,2
HIS8098	Compulsory	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	2	1
HIS8055	Compulsory	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3	1,2,3,4
HIS8001	Compulsory	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2, 3	1,2,3,4
HIS8100	Compulsory	1,2,3	2, 4	1,2,3,4	1,2, 4
HIS8023	Compulsory	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1, 2
HIS8059		1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1, 2
HIS8107		1, 2, 3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1, 2
HIS8106		1, 2, 3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1, 2