

LIBERAL ARTS

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Undergraduate Studies

Welcome



Welcome to Liberal Arts, a degree that prepares you to meet the challenges of a fast-changing world. From the strong foundations of our diverse community and core modules you can choose from a vast range of options across the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences. You may want to study diverse subjects, you may already know you want to combine different areas of interest, or you may have a particular pathway in mind. You may even choose to spend a year abroad at one of our English-speaking international partner universities, or to further your language skills. Throughout, we are here to advise you and help you make freedom of choice work for you in your own way.

At Royal Holloway, Liberal Arts fosters your critical agility, enabling you to range broadly and focus sharply, think deeply and open-endedly, and create new links and understandings. We work collaboratively to develop contemporary intelligence, nurturing real-world skills and values that can make crucial, critical differences in emerging fields, problems, businesses and technologies. And you will, of course, also gain invaluable cultural fluency through the global awareness and communications skills developed in our specially tailored first-year beginners' or advanced language modules and comparative options.

We look forward to welcoming you into our community of exceptional individuals to develop passions and purpose, skills and values that will set you apart for the future.

Dr Vicky Greenaway
Head of Department



3rd
in the UK for teaching quality
(out of 14, The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2027)

Contact details

Course enquiries

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Connect with us

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royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts

Why study Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway?

A Liberal Arts degree at Royal Holloway is ideal for students who value choice and breadth and want to explore different combinations, discover new interests and develop flexible skills for the future. Whether you have a specialism or combination in mind, want to range as broadly as possible, or want to experience new fields like Law, Creative Industries or Languages, Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway allows you to choose modules from across the university and build a degree according to your own interests. Whilst you can specialise, there is no need to choose a major.

At the heart of the degree are our core modules that introduce and develop interdisciplinary approaches to a wide range of important, evolving contemporary issues. By the end of your studies, you will leave with exceptional skills of critical agility, flexibility of thought and clarity of expression. These help you think creatively and strategically as you discuss how to tackle 'real-life' challenges such as global identity politics, food insecurity and AI. Optional modules let you tailor your learning, ranging from Media Arts, Film and Comparative Literature to International Relations, Psychology and more. To further set you apart in the future workplace, in first year (and beyond if you choose), you can hone your cultural fluency and global awareness by choosing from beginners' or advanced French, German, Italian or Spanish.

We also offer four-year options. 'Liberal Arts with an International Year' offers an integral third year abroad at a university where the language of instruction is English. You can choose to build your confidence with 'Liberal Arts with an Integrated Foundation Year'. Or, if you continue your first-year language studies, you can opt for 'Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad', spending an integrated year developing your linguistic and cross-cultural skills at a university, as a teaching assistant or on a work placement.

Throughout this exciting degree, we support a wonderfully diverse and collaborative community of adaptable students.





"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 an Integrated Foundation Year	Y00F	4 years



What you'll learn

Liberal Arts provides the opportunity to choose from an exceptionally diverse range of modules selected from across the whole university, so what you learn will be unique. You can specialise or range broadly: the choice is yours.

However, each year, everything you do to develop your own studies is built around our specially-tailored core Liberal Arts modules, with an emphasis on group work and discussion. These are designed to develop your critical agility and cultural fluency, working individually and collaboratively to develop understanding of the vast potential of new combinations of knowledge, skills and original thinking. We explore how to bring different disciplines into conversations with each other in ways that can make crucial, critical differences in the world.

In first year, to boost their cultural fluency, all Liberal Arts students also choose either a foreign language (beginners' or advanced) or a comparative option. In your final year, you will undertake an independent research project that will reflect your critical agility and original thinking.

BA Liberal Arts with an International Year includes an additional year (Year 3) at one of our international partner universities.

BA Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad offers students continuing language study beyond their first year an additional year (Year 3) spent at one of our partner universities, as a language assistant or in an approved work placement.

BA Liberal Arts with Integrated Foundation Year offers the option of starting with an additional skills-building course.

Studying here

One of the things that makes Liberal Arts so rewarding is the freedom to choose from across the university to create a degree pathway that is unique to you.

Here at Royal Holloway, you can, of course, specialise, but you do not have to choose to major in any area.

Options typically include modules from:

- Biological Sciences
- Classics
- Comparative Literature and Culture
- Creative Industries
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Drama, Theatre and Dance
- Ecology
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- History of Art
- International Relations
- Languages
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Arts
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Visual Arts
- Volunteering

Please note that although we keep changes to a minimum, new modules may be offered or existing ones 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**



Student life

Student life at Royal Holloway is diverse and centres on our beautiful, green 135-acre campus.

Liberal Arts students have the unique opportunity to sample life in a range of different subjects, which offers both social and academic advantages. As well as meeting students from across the university, you will always have the strong, diverse community of Liberal Artists and the support of your Personal Tutor.

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.

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.

3rd

in the UK for student experience

(out of 14, The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2027)

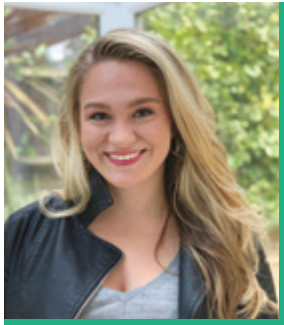




Your future career

Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is designed to prepare you for a fulfilling future in a fast-changing world, giving you the transferable skills, breadth of experience and adaptability that employers will prize.

- As well as critical agility and cultural fluency, your core modules will develop practical, valuable skills such as the ability to work in a team, independent research skills, and confidence in oral presentation.
- You will develop a flexible, problem-solving attitude and the capacity to engage in contemporary debates on global challenges.
- You will also develop your own unique range of specific skills.



"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 and internship opportunities, as well as participating in Royal Holloway's volunteering programme.



This brochure was produced in November 2026 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**

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