



Durham
University

School of Modern Languages & Cultures

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

Internationally

recognised for our research excellence*

*by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.



School of Modern Languages & Cultures

Our languages feature regularly in the top five in national league tables such as *The Good University Guide* and *The Complete University Guide*.

The School of Modern Languages and Cultures has 34 research-active staff and is a vibrant community of researchers, teachers and students. The School returned all six of its constituent departments (Arabic, French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian and Russian) in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, and the results were excellent. Professor Cairns (French) and Professor Saul (German) are members of sub-panel 28 (modern languages and linguistics) for the forthcoming REF exercise. From October 2011, Chinese will be added to our languages offered.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

We currently have over 120 postgraduate students studying for taught and research postgraduate degrees, working on topics as diverse as translation, literature, theatre, cinema and photography. As a student in the School you will participate in a variety of postgraduate activities including dialogue days and research seminars. Our research encompasses all the traditional areas of Modern Languages and Cultures, as well as a number of less orthodox topics, and is internationally recognised for its excellence.

Interdisciplinary research is central to our research. Within the School, research activity is co-ordinated by four research groups: Literature, History, Theory; Culture and Difference; Visual and Performance; and Translation, Linguistics and Pedagogy.

We also play a major role in the University's Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (IMRS), as well as three of its research centres: the Centre for Seventeenth Century Studies, the Durham Centre for Advanced Photography Studies (DCAPS), and the Centre for the Study of the Classical Tradition. All provide research opportunities and contacts across a range of disciplines.

The School has an excellent success rate in our postgraduates finding employment on completion of their studies, with many working either in universities or in the culture industries, such as media and publishing.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

The following research degrees are currently offered:

- MA (by research)
- PhD.

MAIN RESEARCH AREAS

Staff in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures carry out internationally recognised research in a wide range of specialist areas, from the medieval to the modern period. Research in the School is informed by a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches and focuses on a number of different media. Areas of particular strength include the following:

- Medieval and Early Modern literature and culture
- 19th- and 20th-century literature and culture
- Visual culture (film, photography and art)
- Literary and musical culture
- Performance arts
- Gender and sexuality studies
- Critical and cultural theory
- History (cultural, political and intellectual)
- Translation studies.



The School has a lively research culture and is proud of its links with the wider national and international research environment.

In addition to hosting a regular seminar series featuring both visiting and internal speakers and culminating in the annual Leslie Brooks Lecture, the School has a long tradition of hosting major international conferences. Many staff are engaged in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects under the auspices of its research groups and the University's research centres. The School is also very active in the University's prestigious Institute of Advanced Studies. Members of staff have organised workshops, seminars and public lecture series on a host of topics from metaphor theory, to the legacy of Charles Darwin and Futurism.

Finally, the School is home to the *Durham Modern Languages Series*, published by Manchester University Press since 2009. During the last 25 years, DMLS has published over 50 monographs and critical editions in

the areas of Arabic, French, Russian, German, Hispanic and Slavonic literature, language and culture.

RECENT PHD THESIS TITLES

- "Saint Christopher in medieval spanish literature"
- "Je e(s)t les autres: transgression textuelles, déplacements littéraires et enjeux sociopolitiques du transpersonnel dans l'œuvre d'Annie Ernaux"
- "Time, identity and colonialism in German travel writing in Africa 1848–1914"
- "Reduction and undoing: the English Caroline translation of seventeenth century French lyric poetry and epigrams during the Caroline period"
- "Translation and réécriture in the middle ages. Rewriting Merlin in the French and Italian Vernacular Traditions".

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

While you will find the University Library an excellent place to study, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities also makes available a dedicated

Postgraduate Centre in Elvet Riverside, with networked computers, wi-fi and workspaces. As Elvet Riverside is the main base for the School, and where seminars and teaching take place, you will find yourself spending much of your time in various parts of the building. Research students have their own dedicated postgraduate space and facilities, and participate in dialogue days, research seminars and conferences.

STAFF RESEARCH INTEREST

Many of our researchers are among the world's leaders in their fields and we offer postgraduate supervision in all the traditional areas of Modern Languages and Cultures, as well as a number of less mainstream areas, ranging from medieval manuscripts to the modern media, including film and photography, textual and visual studies, queer theory, translation studies, performance, Orientalism and music. The School's six constituent language departments give it its national and cultural focus, and have a shared interest in the relationship between the textual, the historical and the visual.





TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- MA: Good BA or equivalent in a discipline appropriate to the programme
- PhD: MA or equivalent in a discipline appropriate to the programme.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

See page 10 for information on English language requirements.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

- University Doctoral Studentships and Faculty MA Scholarships
- AHRC awards under the Block Grant Partnership (for UK and EU students)
- Barker Scholarships

- Departmental funding for training and research activities.

To find out what support you could be eligible to receive, see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES MA in Arabic/English Translation and Interpreting

The MA in Arabic/English Translation and Interpreting is designed for native speakers of Arabic, and speakers of English who have near-native competence in Arabic. The course combines training in English to Arabic and Arabic to English translation with a consideration of the theoretical issues involved in translation. It is therefore suitable both for prospective professional translators and for those wishing to go on to further academic study. The MA modules are mainly taught in the Department of Arabic, with Translation Theory and Research Methods and Resources being offered by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. The dissertation (c15,000 words) enables you to demonstrate your ability to explore at length a topic of

your choosing in the area of Translation Studies, with special reference to issues appurtenant to Arabic/English translation. Alternatively, you may elect to complete an extended translation project, which involves an annotated translation of a source text of 15,000 words.

MA in Culture and Difference

This MA is concerned with the shaping of identities at borderlines of all kinds. It is interdisciplinary in approach, bringing together colleagues from Modern Languages, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Education, and Anthropology. It explores cultural diversity, and beyond that, the human relationship to otherness in its many guises (racial, cultural, gendered, and so on). Drawing on a number of approaches, it considers the various ways in which otherness has been considered by anthropologists and philosophers, as well as dealing with current issues such as Islamism, European expansion, and globalisation. It also explores issues relating to the representation of otherness in literature, film and the media. Sample topics include the 'discovery' of the New World; primitivism in Modern Art; psychoanalysis and alterity: self as other; eugenics;





human-animal borderlines and interactions; cosmopolitanism; and gender relations.

MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

This MA enables students to explore the history, literature, society and culture of the Middle Ages and Renaissance from an interdisciplinary perspective. Regardless of disciplinary background, or of the future focus of a PhD thesis, it is extremely valuable to study these topics within a distinctive interdisciplinary setting. The programme capitalises on Durham's unusually large number of Medievalist and Renaissance specialists, the vibrant research culture of Durham's Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Durham's excellent libraries and archive collections – and on the City itself, a World Heritage Site where students feel very much part of living history. This degree offers interdisciplinary study in many topics, literary and historical, drawing on the expertise of staff in English, Theology, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Anthropology and others.

The innovative module in 'Medieval and Renaissance Issues' enables students

to develop a critical understanding of modes of tackling key debates in this area from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Students also choose optional modules from a wide range on offer and of course, write a dissertation on a research question which interests them.

MA in Seventeenth Century Studies

This MA is flexible and responsive to the requirements of individual students, allowing you to build on established interests, or explore new areas of seventeenth century studies and interdisciplinary approaches. In addition, it offers advanced research training for those intending to take a PhD. We have an internationally renowned body of academics with research interests in the seventeenth century, and the Centre for Seventeenth Century Studies provides a friendly and supportive research environment. The Library Special Collections possess internationally important seventeenth century resources.

The programme consists of two core modules covering essential research skills and key issues in seventeenth

century studies; an optional module selected from a range offered by the participating departments (History, English, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, Theology and Religion, Music, Classics, Archaeology, Anthropology) and a 20,000 word dissertation comprising an in-depth examination of a chosen aspect of the period. Each module is taught via seminars.

MA in Translation Studies

Durham MA in Translation Studies (MATS) allows students to choose between a theoretical and a practical pathway; both pathways include translation practice and examination for professional accreditation. From 2011, Durham MATS is a member of the recently formed European Master's in Translation (EMT) network. The network is an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation (DGT) and membership attests to the high-quality learning and teaching of the masters-level MA programmes in Europe that are network members.

At Durham, core modules engage with theoretical questions as well as with

the most current translation practice. Specialised Translation modules introduce students to exploit the potential of internet resources for translation. Technological supports available to translators are studied in two modules Online Translation Resources and Translation Memories (also available as a single option as Translation and Technology) that introduce current translation technologies to complement translation skills, including computer-aided translation tools such as SDL Trados Studio 2009, Dejà-Vu, and MemQ. In collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CioL), the Specialised Modules exam is assessed for accreditation of one component (Unit 1) of the Diploma in Translation (DipTrans), the professional standard qualification in UK.

A British Sign Language strand is also available. Supervision for research students is available in a wide range of areas, and features dedicated research seminars. Supervision topics include: literary translation, translation ideology, audiovisual translation, translating for international organisations, translator training, and reception of translations.

Course Structure

The MA in Translation Studies consists of a combination of core modules, which are taken by all students, and optional modules, which are selected by the student.

Core Modules: obligatory for all students

- Research Methods and Resources (30 Credits)
- Translation Theory (30 Credits)
- Specialised Translation Foreign Language 1 (Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish)>English, English>Foreign Language 1 (30 Credits)
- Specialised BSL Translation (30 Credits)*
- Specialised BSL Interpreting (30 Credits)*.

Core Project: students choose 60 credits from one of the following options

- Translation Studies Dissertation (60 Credits)
- Extended Translation Project (60 Credits)
- Translation Project Language 1 (30 Credits) + Translation Project Language 2 (30 credits).

Optional Modules: students choose 30 credits from the following options

- Translation and Technology (30 Credits)
- Specialised Translation Foreign Language 2 (30 Credits)
- Translation Work placement (15 Credits)
- Translation Ethics (15 Credits)
- Translation Memories (15 Credits)
- Online Translation Resources (15 Credits).

**BSL Strand only.*



TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- Good BA undergraduate degree in a discipline appropriate to the programme.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates whose first language is not English are expected to achieve an overall band score of at least 7.0 in the IELTS test (with a writing score of 7.0 or above and no other component below 7.0). Candidates whose first language is not English, taking the TOEFL IBT (Internet Based Test), are expected to achieve at least a score of 110 (with individual components of reading 28, listening 26, speaking 28, writing 28 or above). In all cases the relevant certificate should have been issued within two years of the programme start date.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and

further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Durham University Arts and Humanities Faculty MA Scholarship Scheme
- Postgraduate bursaries
- AHRC awards under the Block Grant Partnership (for UK and EU students).

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/postgraduate/employability

Name:
Sarah Buxton

Home Country:
UK

Postgraduate Course:
PhD Modern Languages
and Cultures

I was studying as an undergraduate when I became aware of the exciting work that was going on at Durham in Medieval Studies. I graduated, came to Durham and completed an MA by research as a 'trial run' to see if I was ready to go into full-time research, and loved it.

Over the course of my PhD I have written a sustained piece of original research, but I have also had plenty of opportunities to attend conferences (and organise and host them here), publish, participate in discussion groups, go on research trips, and teach.

There is a very supportive and active postgraduate community at Durham which means that the long and independent task of writing a thesis need not be isolated or lonely. The colleges provide social networks, and discussion groups and shared offices allow you to meet and work with a wide range of people.

After my PhD I intend to get a job in academia, and as such the qualification is a vital step in the career ladder. Similarly, the MA enabled me to convince the Arts and Humanities Research Council to fund my doctoral work, so both of my Durham degrees have been crucial. Postgraduate study continues some of what you do as an undergraduate, but I have found it much more helpful to consider it in the same way as you would a job. The fact that you have to manage your time and work allows you to develop your sense of self-discipline, and makes your achievement even more rewarding.



Contact details

Research programmes

Professor Lucille Cairns

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Taught programmes

MA in Arabic/English Translation and Interpreting

Professor Paul Starkey

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[www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/
postgraduate/ma-ar](http://www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/postgraduate/ma-ar)

MA in Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Dr Kathryn Banks

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[www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/
postgraduate/ma-mrs](http://www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/postgraduate/ma-mrs)

MA in Seventeenth Century Studies

Professor Jan Clarke

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[www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/
postgraduate/ma-17c](http://www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/postgraduate/ma-17c)

MA in Culture and Difference

Dr Nicholas Roberts

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www.durham.ac.uk/culture.difference

MA in Translation Studies

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[www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/
postgraduate/transstuds](http://www.durham.ac.uk/mlac/postgraduate/transstuds)

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