**UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY**

**Annexe 2**

**UKC Programme Specifications Template**

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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the programme.More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found [*either* by following the links provided *or* in the programme handbook]. The accuracy of the information contained in this specification is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. |

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| **MA in Comparative Literature** |

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| 1. **Awarding Institution/Body** | University of Kent |
| 1. **Teaching Institution** | University of Kent |
| 1. **Teaching Site** | Canterbury Campus |
| 1. **Programme accredited by:** |  |
| 1. **Final Award** | MA |
| 1. **Programme** | Comparative Literature |
| 1. **UCAS Code (or other code)** |  |
| 1. **Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)** | Languages and related studies |
| 1. **Date of production/revision** | 2002/2010 |
| 1. **Applicable cohort(s)** | 2002 entry onwards |

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| 1. **Educational Aims of the Programme**   The programme aims to: |
| 1. Provide students with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for the academic study of Comparative Literature at MPhil/PhD level. 2. Attract outstanding students, irrespective of race, background, gender, or physical disability from within the UK. 3. Further the University’s International Strategy by attracting graduate students from abroad as well as from the UK. 4. Enable students to begin to specialize in their areas of interest. 5. Enable students to hone their ability to read literature and literary theory critically and comparatively. 6. Provide students, consistent with 1 above, with a transition from undergraduate study to independent research. 7. Provide students with a training that will culminate, if followed through to PhD level, in the ability to submit articles to refereed journals in Comparative Literature. |

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| 1. **Programme Outcomes**   The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the subject benchmarking statement for *(****SB****).* | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated** |
| **A. Knowledge and Understanding of:** |  |
| 1. Several key periods in modern European literature, based on a critical study of the relevant literature and literary theory. | Knowledge and understanding are promoted by a range of teaching methods including graduate-level seminars, tutorials, a graduate research seminar, and independent group work.  Students are given guidance on independent study including preparatory reading for seminars, the writing of coursework essays, and the writing of a dissertation.  Students are given detailed comments on written work. When writing the dissertation students will be given more intensive supervision. |
| 1. A detailed understanding of the applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry in Comparative Literature, in particular through an engagement with questions of genre, the concept of literary movements, literary theory, and literature’s relation to other discourses (including psychoanalysis and philosophy). |  |
| 1. The ability to conceptualize, design and implement the final project (dissertation). |  |
| **Skills and Other Attributes**  **B. Intellectual Skills:** |  |
| 1. Listening attentively to complex  presentations; using powers of analysis and imagination. | Coursework seminars. Modules will be taught by means of the seminar format. For each module, students may expect a two-hour seminar once a week. Students are expected to be well prepared for seminars and to ask questions and engage in argumentation. Towards the end of each module, students will receive individual tutorials to discuss their planned coursework essays. Tutorials are meant to provide a rigorous and challenging learning environment which is active, not passive. Students are expected to be well prepared for them.  **Research Seminars.** Students are encouraged to attend the research events organized by SECL and by the Centre for Modern European Literature. |
| 2. Reading carefully a variety of technical  and non-technical material. |  |
| 3. Using libraries effectively. |  |
| 4. Reflecting clearly and critically on oral and written sources. |  |
| 5. Marshalling a complex body of  texts. |  |
| 6. Remembering relevant material and  bringing it to mind when needed. |  |
| 7. Constructing cogent arguments in the  evaluation of this material. |  |
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| **C. Subject-specific Skills:** |  |
| 1. Ability to understand and analyse complex literary and theoretical material. | **Essays.** Students will write one essay (c. 5000 words) for each of their four modules. They will be expected to expand on material discussed in the seminars. |
| 2. Ability to read literature in a comparative context. | **Dissertation**. Students will base their dissertations on research done for the seminars and individual modules, in consultation with their module convenors and the programme director. These dissertations will be due at the end of the summer following the MA course, and will be expected to be around 12,000 words. |
| 3. Ability to differentiate between the formal implications of differing genres (i.e. poetry, prose, drama, photography, painting, and film) and to respond to the differing problems of these genres and media. |  |
| 1. Ability to situate literary and theoretical texts in their socio-historical context. |  |
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| **D. Transferable Skills:** |  |
| 1. *Working with others:* participating in   seminar discussions, responding to the  views of others and to criticisms of  your own views without giving or  taking offence; engaging in independent  group work, including the running of the graduate seminar. | Most modules will involve seminars in which students learn to work with others, to contribute to discussions, and to produce written work on which they receive comments. Each student will be expected to engage in discussion about the given texts, thus having the opportunity to practise responding to the views of others, criticizing without giving or taking offence, etc.  The dissertation enables students to develop further skills in independent study. |
| 1. 2. *Language skills*: discussing complex material in English and (where possible) in the language(s) of original composition. |  |
| 1. *Communication:* producing focused   and cogent written work; giving oral presentations, using visual aids where appropriate. | **Assessment of transferable skills**  All modules involve the assessment of written work. Assessment of written work takes account of presentation skills including competence in literacy and word-processing. |
| 4. *Problem-solving:* identifying problems; assessing the strengths and weaknesses of different solutions; defending your own solutions with cogent arguments. |  |
| 1. *Improving your learning:* identifying   your strengths and weaknesses;  assessing the quality of your own work;  managing your time and meeting  deadlines; learning to work  independently. |  |
| 1. *Using information technology:*   using on-line information sources; word- processing essays; using email for  receiving and responding to communications. |  |
| For more information on which modules provide which skills, see the module outlines. | |

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| 1. **Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**   The taught MA in Comparative Literature is recommended both for students who want to deepen their knowledge of modern European and non-European literature and for those who are contemplating a career in literary studies and who want to go on to study for a PhD.  The programme is divided into a number of elements (called modules). Students are required to complete 4 coursework modules (during the Autumn and Spring terms) and 1 dissertation (over the summer). Each coursework module counts for 30 credits, and the dissertation counts for 60 credits. This makes a total of 120 credits (or 4 x 30 credits) for the four modules, supplemented by the end-of-year dissertation which will count for 60 credits. This will bring the total of the MA course to 180 credits.  The four coursework modules will be individually assessed by essays (c. 5000 words). The seminars will convene once a week for two hours. The end-of-year dissertation should be c. 12,000 words.  A proficiency in English is a course requirement. For students intending to pursue doctoral study in Comparative Literature, a proficiency in other relevant languages is highly recommended.  The programme is offered on a full-time basis, with completion of the programme in one year, or on a part-time basis, with completion of the programme in two years. Full-time students will normally be studying 60 credits at any one time; part-time students will normally follow 30 credits per term.    Study at the University is organized in two 12-week terms (in each of which it is usual to have two ‘reading weeks’) and a 6-week ‘examination’ term for undergraduates but in which graduate students will receive supervision for their dissertations to be written up in the summer vacation. | | | | | | | | | |
| **Code** | | **Title** | **Level** | | **Credits** | | **Term(s)** | | |
| **Coursework modules include (subject to availability):** | | | | | | | | |
| CP802 | The European Avant-Garde in Literature, Art and Film | | | M | | 30 | | Autumn or Spring |
| CP803 | Psychoanalysis and Literature | | | M | | 30 | | Autumn or Spring |
| CP804 | Literature in Dark Times | | | M | | 30 | | Autumn or Spring |
| CP805 | European Modernism: Sexual and Textual Deviance | | | M | | 30 | | Autumn or Spring |
| CP806 | Postcolonial Cultures | | | M | | 30 | | Autumn or Spring |
| **Dissertation:** | | | | | | | | |
| CPXXX | Dissertation | | | M | | 60 | | Summer vacation |
| 1. **Support for Students and their Learning** | | | | | | | | | | |
| * The MA Programme Director and the Director of Graduate Studies for the School are available for consultation about academic or non-academic matters. * All staff have regular published office hours and are contactable by email. Appointments may be made outside of office hours. * All students are encouraged to seek advice from any member of staff to discuss any matters of academic or non-academic concern.   In addition to support with the department, the following services are available within the University:   * University Medical Centre for health-related issues. * Counselling Service. * Careers Advisory Service. * Disability Support Unit. * The Student Learning Advisory Support Service on campus offers for advice on many learning activities: revision, essay writing, making presentations, effective learning in lecturers and seminars, time management. * The Library runs induction courses in how to use its facilities. * The Students’ Union particularly offers advice on welfare. | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 1. **Entry Profile** |
| Candidates for admission to the MA in Comparative Literature will normally be expected to have an Honours degree awarded by a British university (or equivalent foreign qualifications) in a relevant subject (Comparative Literature, English, Modern Languages, etc.). This degree should be of First Class or no lower than Second Class standard. Holders of other qualifications will be considered individually. They should also be proficient in English.  For fuller information, please refer to the University prospectus.  **Minimum requirements** |
| * An Honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject, and of at least Second Class standard. * See the following for English requirements:   http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/postgrad/apply/entry.html |
| **What does this programme have to offer?** |
| * The programme is recommended both for students who merely wish to continue their studies in the literary field for their own enjoyment and for those who are contemplating an academic career in modern languages and literary studies, since it is ideal preparation for a PhD. * The programme seeks to make use of the fact that Comparative Literature has close links with other subjects in the School of European Culture and Languages (French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian) as well as with the School of English. * Students enrolled on the programme are able to benefit from the regular research events organized by the Centre for Modern European Literature. * When it comes to writing the final end-of-year dissertation, faculty staff at Kent can offer strong links to other research institutions and libraries of relevance. |
| **Personal Profile** |
| * An interest in modern European literature. * A willingness to engage critically with literary texts and to produce coherent written and oral work in response to them. * Proven knowledge of English and (preferably) of at least one other European language. |

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| 1. **Methods for Evaluating and Enhancing the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning** |
| **Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards** |
| * Student evaluations (see Mechanisms for gaining student feedback, below). * Annual Monitoring Report. * External Examiner’s Report. * Periodic Programme Review. * Annual staff appraisal. * Peer observation of teaching. * Mentoring of new and part-time lecturers. |
| **Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards** |
| * LLB Board of Studies. * Staff/Student Consultative Committee. * School of European Culture and Languages Learning and Teaching Committee. * Humanities Learning and Teaching Committee. * University Learning and Teaching Board. * Board of Examiners. |
| **Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience** |
| * **Student Feedback.** A number of discussions will be scheduled through the year to provide non-anonymous student feedback to the convenor of the MA who will feed this anonymously to the Board of Studies. * **Staff/Student Consultative Committee.** There will be one representative from a ‘Taught MA’ on the staff/student consultative committee who will also be invited to attend Board of Studies meetings and consult on a regular basis with other graduate students. * **Student representation for SECL and Faculty.** There may be an opportunity to represent postgraduate students from the School and from the Faculty. |
| **Staff Development priorities include:** |
| * Research-led teaching. * All new members of staff are expected to have PhD in Comparative Literature or one of the modern languagesand a substantial list of publications. * All new members of staff are required to have/achieve a postgraduate certificate in higher education. * All staff are required to be appraised on a yearly basis. * All staff are required to attend staff development events related to teaching, research, and administration. * Support for research including supporting attendance at conferences and providing appropriately covered leave to support staff on research projects (often resulting in publication), thus enhancing their body of knowledge in the field, their teaching and their career. |

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| 1. **Indicators of Quality and Standards** |
| * Staff in Comparative Literature submitted with the French and German UoAs in RAE 2008. French was ranked 8th nationally and German within the top 30 departments nationally. |

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| The following reference points were used in creating these specifications: |
| * SECL programme and module guidelines. * The University Mission Statement *(*http://www.kent.ac.uk/about/mission.html). * University Regulations for Taught Programmes: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/registry/quality/regulations/taught/cwkinstc.html> * University Plan/Learning and Teaching Strategy. |

Programme Specification Template

Annexe 2

18 May 2001

Reformatted 11 April 2002

Updated 08/02/2006