**Annex C: 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 by following the links provided. 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 Contemporary Italian Studies** |

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| 1. **Awarding Institution/Body** | University of Kent |
| 1. **Teaching Institution** | University of Kent |
| 1. **School responsible for management of the programme** | School of European Culture and Language |
| 1. **Teaching Site** | Canterbury Campus |
| 1. **Mode of Delivery** | Full-time  Part-time |
| 1. **Programme accredited by** | University of Kent |
| 1. **Final Award** | MA (with PDip as a fallback award) |
| 1. **Programme** | MA in Contemporary Italian Studies |
| 1. **UCAS Code (or other code)** |  |
| 1. **Credits/ECTS value** | 180 |
| 1. **Study Level** | Postgraduate MA |
| 1. **Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)** | BA benchmarks used for guidance, and enhanced for Master’s level:  Italian, History, Philosophy, Politics, Comparative Literature. |
| 1. **Date of production/revision** | May 2014 |
| 1. **Applicable cohort(s)** | Sept 2014 onwards |

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| 1. **Educational Aims of the Programme**   The programme aims to: |
| 1. Introduce students to a variety of questions, methodologies, and theories that inform contemporary Italian thought, with particular reference to political theory (especially biopolitics), psychoanalysis, critical theory, and literary criticism. 2. Enable students to obtain a postgraduate qualification (MA) in one year (two years, if PT), and provide a smooth transition to doctoral work for those who wish to pursue their studies further. 3. Expose students to a variety of specifically Italian critical methodologies, writing styles, researching styles, and concepts that are used across a range of academic disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences in relation to specific topics and questions in political, psychoanalytic and literary theory. 4. Offer a learning experience which is informed by the latest research and scholarship, and which requires students to engage with issues and insights at forefront of their academic discipline. 5. Develop students' capacities to think critically about past and present events and experiences in relation to politics, literature, and psychoanalysis as well as their connection. 6. Encourage students to relate the academic study of Italian Studies and Critical Theory to questions of public debate and concern. 7. Develop Italian skills of students who are not native speakers of Italian but choose to work on texts in the Italian original. 8. Provide further development of critical, analytical and other transferable skills acquired at first degree level. |

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| 16. **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 statements for those subjects listed in 8. |

**A. Knowledge and Understanding of:**

1. Key notions of Italian biopolitical thought, and of Italian literary, critical, and psychoanalytical theory

2. Historical, cultural and theoretical background to current debates in biopolitics, Italian psychoanalytic criticism and *critica militante*

3. The relation between early modern and early 20th century Italian political thought (e.g. Machiavelli, Vico, Gramsci) and the contemporary Italian biopolitical debate (e.g. Agamben, Esposito, Negri and post-workerism)

4. The main trends in contemporary literary theory in Italy (in particular psychoanalytic criticism, *critica militante* and *critica accademica*), as well as the political implications of each of these approaches.

5. The historically-determined development of political, literary, and psychoanalytic narratives about subjectivity and otherness in the Italian context, as well as the connections between these narratives.

**Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:**

Knowledge and understanding is acquired and enabled through seminars (containing also lecture elements in the guise of brief introductions), student seminar presentations, one-to-one feedback and dissertation meetings. Students will also be encouraged to attend subject-related conferences, as well as the events of the Interdisciplinary Italian Research Seminars Series and those of the Centre for Critical Thought.

Learning is assessed via seminar presentations, essays, and a dissertation of 12,000 words.

**Skills and Other Attributes**

**B. Intellectual Skills:**

1. To gather, organise and deploy various data from relevant primary and secondary sources

2. To develop reasoned defensible arguments based on reflection, study and critical judgement.

3. To evaluate critically current research and scholarship, and to evaluate methodologies.

4. To propose new arguments and hypotheses.

5. To reflect on, and manage one’s learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback from peers and staff to enhance one’s performance and personal skills.

6. To be able to understand and articulate the similarities and differences between different critical approaches to literature and philosophy, as well as their political significance.

**Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated**

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined below. Each module, whatever the format of teaching, engages students with critical reflection on key themes, verbal discussion and written analysis and interpretation of the relevant material. Lecture elements within seminars provide students with an outline of the respective topic. Seminars encourage discussion and further dissection of information in an informed and critical atmosphere. Essays, presentations, and the researching and writing of dissertations allow students to demonstrate the skills and expertise they will have acquired.

**C. Subject-specific Skills: Some of these will be emphasised more than others dependent on the focus of individual students’ studies**.

1. Comparing specifically Italian approaches to literary and political texts with other critical traditions (e.g. French or Anglo-Saxon)

2. Comprehensively understanding the specific cultural and intellectual contexts in which the methodologies addressed in the module were developed.

3. Comprehensively understanding the specificity, relevance, and implications of different critical approaches to literary and political texts.

4. Evaluating different interpretations, sources and argumentative positions.

5. Applying methods, concepts and theories used by one or more of the relevant disciplines.

**D. Transferable Skills:**

1. Communication: ability to organise information clearly; respond to various sources and arguments; present information and arguments orally and in writing; adapt style for different audiences and disciplines; ability to use images as a communications tool.

2. Information Technology: produce written documents; undertake online research; communicate using email; process information using databases and spread sheets where necessary.

3. Independence of mind and initiative.

4. Self-discipline and self-motivation.

5. Ability to work with others and have respect for others' reasoned views.

**Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated**

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Examples of strategies include: student and tutor-led seminars; self-directed learning and the use of research-based teaching materials and methods. Feedback will be regularly given to students in order to help them develop their powers of presentation, analysis and communication.

For more information on which modules provide which skills, see the module mapping.

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| **17. Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**  The MA programme offers students with a first- or second-class honours degree in a relevant subject (or equivalent) the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Italian Theory, with a particular focus on biopolitics, political thought, Italian psychoanalytic criticism, *critica militante*, and ‘academic literary criticism’ (*critica accademica*), as well as of the significant interconnections between these different disciplines and methodologies. Students are required to take a total of 180 credits. On successful completion of the taught modules (120 credits), students will have to write a research dissertation (60 credits) on a topic agreed with a supervisor, for which the maximum length is 12,000 words. Following an interim school exam board, successful candidates are permitted to proceed to the dissertation stage of the programme. Students successfully completing 120 credits who do not complete the dissertation will be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma.  The programme is offered on both a full- and part-time basis. FT students have to study the first compulsory module (ITXXX) in Autumn, plus one additional optional 30 credit module in the Autumn term, and then the second compulsory module in the Spring term (ITYYY), plus one additional optional 30 credit module. Students will therefore need to take a total of 60 credits with optional modules throughout the course. The dissertation (ITZZZ) is written during the Summer Term and vacation. PT students take the first compulsory module in the Autumn of Year 1, then 30 credits in the Spring of Year 1 and the Autumn of Year 2, then the second compulsory module in the Spring of Year 2, finishing with the Dissertation in the Summer of Year 2.  The structure of the programme and its component modules are shown below. Optional modules can be chosen from MA modules offered across the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences in consultation with the convenor of the programme. They will preferably be chosen from, but will not be limited to, the list provided below. Note that not all modules are available every year. Details of all modules can be found at [www.kent.ac.uk/secl/italian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/italian).  The structure of the programme and the modules which will provide the necessary credits are shown below. Details of each module will be posted at: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/modules/index.html> |

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| **Code** | **Title** | **Level** | **Credits** | **Term(s)** |
| ***Compulsory Modules*** | | | | |
| ITXXX | Italian Literary Criticism: From *Critica Militante* to Contemporary Psychoanalytic Criticism | M | 30 | Autumn/Spring |
| ITYYY | Emancipation and the Politics of Life: an Introduction to Modern Italian Thought | M | 30 | Spring/Autumn |
| ITZZZ | Italian Theory Dissertation | M | 60 | Summer |
| ***Optional Modules: to be selected from a wide list as approved by the teaching team*** | | | | |

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| 1. **Work-Based Learning**   Disability Statement: Where disabled students are due to undertake a work placement as part of this programme of study, a representative of the University will meet with the work placement provider in advance to ensure the provision of anticipatory and reasonable adjustments in line with legal requirements. |
| Where relevant to the programme of study, provide details of any work-based learning element, inclusive of employer details, delivery, assessment and support for students. |
| * There is no work-based learning element. |

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| 1. **Support for Students and their Learning** |
| **Upon initial attendance**   * Induction programme will be provided: with School representatives, Library tours, computer support within SECL, etc. * Handbook for SECL students and access to relevant information from relevant Schools will be provided. * Meeting with all relevant members of academic staff to help plan module choices and pathways.   **Throughout: School-based support**   * The MA Programme Director, the Director of Graduate Studies for Italian, and the SECL Director of Graduate Studies (taught) are available for consultation about academic and non-academic matters. * Guidance given for module choices throughout by MA Director will be provided. * All staff have regular office hours and are contactable by e-mail. 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. * One-to-one tutorials for supervision of research projects in final year will be provided. * Pastoral support provided at School-level by dedicated team of experienced academic and administrative staff.   **Throughout: other support**   * Library services, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/library/> * Student Support <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/> * Student wellbeing [www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/) * Centre for English and World Languages, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html> * Student Learning Advisory Service, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html> * PASS system, see <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/quality/code2001/annexg.html> * Academic Adviser system * Kent Union, see [www.kentunion.co.uk/](http://www.kentunion.co.uk/) * Careers and Employability Services, see [www.kent.ac.uk/ces/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ces/) * Counselling Service [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/) * Information Services (computing and library services), see [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/) * Undergraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels * International Office, see [www.kent.ac.uk/international/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/international/) * Medical Centre, see [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/menu/Medical-Centre.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/menu/Medical-Centre.html) |

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| 1. **Entry Profile**   The minimum age to study a degree programme at the University is normally at least 17 years old by 20 September in the year the programme begins. There is no upper age limit. |
| **20.1 Entry Route**  For fuller information, please refer to the University prospectus |
| * Applicants for the MA in Contemporary Italian Studies will normally be expected to have a first- or second-class honours degree in a relevant subject (or equivalent) awarded by a British university, or an equivalent qualification from a non-UK institution. * International students will need to demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of the English language. Students with a 6.5 IELTS score (with a minimum of 6.0 in Reading and Writing and 5.5 in Speaking and Listening) will normally be accepted. |
| **20.2 What does this programme have to offer?** |
| * In recent years Italian Theory has increasingly established itself as a prominent field in contemporary philosophical, political, and literary debates. This program will offer students the exceptional opportunity to explore themes, questions and methodologies addressed also by other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences through a cutting-edge, distinctively contemporary, Italian-specific approach. * The possibility of specialising, for the dissertation element, in a wide range of areas, corresponding to the research interests of staff. * The opportunity, upon completion of this programme, to progress to a research degree in a relevant study area * The opportunity to engage with intellectually challenging and stimulating themes in two languages, which will increase students’ linguistic skills and employability. * Excellent facilities and opportunities are available for the enhancement of knowledge, critical thinking, and research skills. * The opportunity to benefit from regular research events organised by the Italian Department, SECL, The Centre for Modern European Literature, and the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. * An attractive campus, with friendly and supportive staff. * Teaching by specialists with nationally and internationally distinguished reputations in a wide range of relevant fields. * A vibrant research culture within a large and interdisciplinary school. * The opportunity to study alongside, and learn from, exceptionally able and enthusiastic fellow students from a range of disciplines. |
| **20.3 Personal Profile** |
| The student will have:   * An interest in Italian thought, literature, and politics, as well as willingness to engage with them critically through a variety of perspectives. * A willingness to engage in hard work, research, and critical analysis and debate. * Knowledge of a relevant subject at undergraduate level and a strong interest in Italian thought. * A working knowledge of Italian language (desirable, but not essential) |

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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 * Feedback and interaction via active and dynamic student representative system * On-going monitoring of modules by teachers through informal discussion with students * Scrutiny by an external examiner of the Programme and its assessment procedures and systems; external examiner’s report * Periodic Programme Review * Annual Staff Appraisal: Reflect, Plan, Develop * Peer Observation of Teaching * Mentoring of new and part-time academic staff |
| **21.2 Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards** |
| * The Programme is located within the Department of Italian, so Language & Literature Board will have the main oversight. * Exam Board, with external examiner. * Graduate Studies Committee. * Graduate School Board. * School Graduate Studies Committee. * Faculty Graduate Studies Committee. * University Learning and Teaching Board. |
| **21.3 Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience** |
| * Student module evaluations. * Staff/Student Liaison Committee. * Staff office hours for students to discuss progress. * Student representation for SECL and Faculty. There may be an opportunity to represent postgraduate students from the School and from the Faculty. |
| **21.4 Staff Development priorities include:** |
| * Research-led teaching. * All new members of staff are expected to have a Ph.D and publications in the relevant subject area. * All new members of staff are required to have/achieve a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education. * All new staff are mentored within their Schools. * 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. * All staff attend School- and Faculty-based awaydays. * The various subjects have research seminars of different sorts that meet regularly. * All Schools will regularly organise academic workshops and conferences. |

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| 1. **Indicators of Quality and Standards** |
| * Internal subject reviews. * REF submission * Teaching and research culture recognised by funding bodies in the form of grants given to staff for research (Fondazione CRT, Leverhulme Trust). * Partnerships with HE institutions in the UK and abroad (including PhD co-tutelle programmes). * International recognition of research by teaching staff. * Invitations extended to members of staff by UK and foreign universities. * External moderation; external examiners’ reports. * Students’ satisfaction as evidence by NSS 2011 (93% for Italian). |

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| 22.1 The following reference points were used in creating these specifications: |
| * Existing MA Programme specifications for: Comparative Literature; Modern European Literature; Modern French Studies: Writing, Theory, and Visual Culture; Medical Humanities. * Relevant HEFCE BA benchmarks used for guidance, and enhanced for Master’s level: Italian; Philosophy; History; Politics; Comparative Literature. * SECL School Plan. * Faculty of Humanities Plan. * University Plan * University Code of Practice <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html> |

**Module Mapping: MA in Contemporary Italian Studies**

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| **PLOs** | **Compulsory 1** | **Compulsory 2** | **Diss** | **Recommended** |  |  | **Optional** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Other** |
|  | ITXXX | ITYYY | ITZZZ | PO942 | PO937 | FRXXX | CP805 | CP811 | CP813 | FR866 | EN889 | EN897 | EN903 | HI817 |
| A1 | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 | x | x | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A3 | x | x | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A4 | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | x |  |  |
| A5 | x | x | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | x |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B1 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| B2 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| B3 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| B4 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| B5 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| B6 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C1 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |  |
| C2 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| C3 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| C4 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| C5 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D1 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| D2 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| D3 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| D4 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| D5 | x | x |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |