

Programme Specification

Transnational Studies (2019-20)

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	Transnational Studies
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	4232
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Heidi Armbruster (ha)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (4233).

The programme takes a unique interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The programme investigates new and historical population movements and their impact on our understanding of contemporary societies; it analyses the transnational flow of cultural texts and products; it takes into focus the role of artists and thinkers in a global cultural network, and brings to light new cultures of dissemination and consumption. It engages transnationalism as an approach that asks new questions about the role of nation and state and opens up inquiries into the creation, articulation and contestation of national identities and collective memories; it explores the role of multilingualism in transnational spaces and the ways in which beliefs about language inform social inclusion and exclusion.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

You will complete a core programme of research skills development in tandem with a series of modules. You will develop knowledge and understanding through tutor-led and student-led seminars, collaborative projects, oral presentations and independent research. Film and visual arts will be integrated into teaching and learning activities where applicable.

A large part of postgraduate study is independent learning. The programme will develop your critical awareness, encouraging you to reflect on the methodologies employed in further study and to apply these to the reading and research you undertake as part of your degree.

Assessment

You will be assessed by a variety of means, such as research essays and papers and shorter pieces of assessed work, individual and group presentations and the dissertation. The 20,000 word dissertation is a core element in establishing the acquisition of appropriate skills and the application of research techniques. Your masters tutor will be available to provide regular and supportive advice, guidance and feedback on your progress.

Special Features of the programme

The programme includes one option module which can be chosen from other areas of the postgraduate curriculum in Modern Languages and the Faculty of Humanities. You can choose a language module as your option (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish or Russian). This will allow you to get a taste of a language you may have always wanted to learn or to improve your already existing language skills.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The emergence of transnational patterns in cultures, societies and languages is one of the pre-eminent phenomena of our time. Unlike the current (few) existing programmes in Transnational Studies, which cover politics, economics and development, our programme focuses on transnational theories and phenomena across a wide range of the humanities and social sciences. The programme will train you to analyse cultural, historical and linguistic processes in the context of transnational processes, and will emphasize working across cultures, both at the conceptual level (theory) and in the material studied.

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of theories of transnationalism, postcolonialism, globalization, nationalism and imperialism
- enhance your ability to analyse transnational phenomena
- enable you to work across cultures, on conceptual and practical levels
- introduce you to advanced-level study of transnational aspects of culture, linguistics and history, utilizing theoretical texts, primary source materials and the key secondary literature
- equip you with the practical and intellectual skills with which you may develop a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of transnational phenomena and a critical evaluation of existing scholarly perspectives

- provide you, via the dissertation, with the opportunity to make your own original contribution to understanding transnationalism, based upon extensive use of primary sources and a comprehension of what has and has not already been adequately addressed in the secondary literature.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. theories of transnationalism, postcolonialism, globalization, nationalism and imperialism
- A2. transnational cultural, historical and linguistic processes
- A3. innovative research methodologies in the humanities
- A4. how conceptual frameworks for understanding nationalism and post-nationalism have changed
- A5. the subject chosen for your dissertation, including principal primary source materials and relevant scholarly literature

Teaching and Learning Methods

- You will develop knowledge and understanding through, tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, reaction papers, collaborative projects and independent research.
- Film and the visual arts will be integrated into teaching and learning activities where applicable
- An innovative aspect of the programme is the combination of collaborative and individual learning activities.
- Staff and students will organise and participate in workshops and conferences.

Assessment Methods

- research projects presented in written and oral formats
- extended research papers and shorter pieces of assessed coursework
- individual and group presentations
- dissertation of 20,000 words.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. evaluate the evolution of theoretical approaches to transnationalism and nationalism
- B2. synthesize major debates on transnational processes involving cultural, linguistic, historical and socio-political phenomena
- B3. critically evaluate primary source material and arguments contained in secondary texts, and to propose new hypotheses on the basis of these evaluations

- B4. synthesize and integrate the analysis of field research, primary source materials and secondary texts into a coherent and original dissertation

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities particularly designed to enhance your thinking skills include tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, group projects, oral presentations and dissertation.

Assessment Methods

Research Papers and shorter pieces of assessed work, individual and group presentations and the dissertation will all assess your intellectual skills.

Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests your cognitive skills, moving from articulation of concepts through to synthesis and evaluation

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. communicate complex ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- C2. communicate complex ideas and arguments orally, in the context of formal collaborative and individual presentations
- C3. identify, select and draw upon a wide range of printed and electronic sources
- C4. demonstrate collaborative skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence
- C5. demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study
- C6. identify, locate, select and draw upon a wide range of primary and secondary source materials
- C7. develop your linguistic skills
- C8. critically evaluate and integrate field research, primary sources, and the arguments of established authorities
- C9. demonstrate the capacity for self-directed and collaborative problem-solving, and time-management
- C10. become more globally and culturally aware

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed through tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorial discussions, group and individual presentations, IT workshops, bibliographic training sessions, group projects and independent research.

Assessment Methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations, reaction papers, practical skills exercises, group and individual research projects, departmental research seminars and a dissertation. Progression is recognized in the assessment scheme, which allows the development of source identification and selection skills, critical and evaluative skills, written communications skills, independent and collaborative working and time-management skills in the form of essays, research projects, oral presentations through to the sustained application of these skills in the 20,000 word dissertation.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
TRAN6012	Cultural Flows	7.5	Compulsory
TRAN6014	Dissertation (Transnational Studies)	37.5	Compulsory
TRAN6009	Memory in National and Transnational Contexts	7.5	Compulsory
TRAN6015	Nation, Culture, Power	7.5	Compulsory
TRAN6008	Research Skills 1	7.5	Compulsory
TRAN6011	Research Skills 2	7.5	Compulsory
TRAN6010	Transnational Movement in the Age of Globalisation	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Optional Modules

LANGXX15 Language Module 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LING6015	Dissertation (ALRM)	30	Optional
LING6014	English as a World Language	7.5	Optional
LING6028	Intercultural Communication	7.5	Optional
LING6044	Teaching Foreign Languages to Younger Learners	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) and [Progression, Determination](#)

and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

- National Student Survey

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

A Masters degree will enable you to further develop the key skills employers seek such as: time management; problem solving; team work; deadline and project management; cultural awareness; working independently; using your initiative; relationship-building; critical thinking and research analysis. Above all, you will learn to communicate your ideas and enthusiasm to a wide range of audiences.

The skills and knowledge from this MA have enabled students to proceed onto doctoral research or to gain employment in the UK or abroad in the arts, the charity sector, the development and immigration sector, the foreign office, interpreting, teaching, and higher education administration.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Rachael E Langford - Cardiff University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies.</p> <p>Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	All laboratory equipment and materials are provided.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.</p> <p>A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</p>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.