

**e-Business Meeting of the Senatus Academic Policy and Regulations  
Committee (APRC)  
Tuesday 12 – Friday 15 September 2023**

**AGENDA**

<b>For approval</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Approval of Pass/Fail arrangement for two History Study Abroad courses</b> For approval	APRC 23/24 2A

Comments should be directed to the Convener of APRC, Professor Patrick Hadoke ([Patrick.Hadoke@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Patrick.Hadoke@ed.ac.uk)), copied to APRC Administrator, Olivia Hayes ([Olivia.Hayes@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Olivia.Hayes@ed.ac.uk)).

Comments should be returned by **12pm, Friday 15 September 2023.**

**Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee****September e-Business meeting****Approval of Pass/Fail arrangement for two courses:****HIST10509: Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History: Courses Undertaken in host University (Semester 1)****HIST10510: Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History: Courses Undertaken in host University (Semester 2)****Description of paper**

1. Request for approval of the pass/fail arrangements of the two courses listed above. These courses will contribute to the following 2030 strategies:
  - a. The undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, wherever they do it.
  - b. We will have more user-friendly processes and efficient systems to support our work.

**Action requested / recommendation**

2. For approval.

Formal approval of HIST10509 and HIST10510. The two 20 credit compulsory courses have been approved by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA) Board of Studies following consultation with the School of Literature, Languages and Cultures (LLC) and will be available to students on the joint language and history degrees from academic year 23/24.

**Background and context**

3. The joint Languages and History programmes (e.g French and History) owned by the School of Literature, Languages and Cultures (LLC) include a compulsory year abroad in Year 3. In 2022/23, students completed a 40 credit course 'CHCA10004: Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History' where they submitted two essays supervised by a member of staff from the History Subject Area. For the language side of their degree programme, mandatory year abroad students had the option of taking 'ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B' which is a pass/fail only, as credits awarded for this course will be awarded following assessment in the Final Year (<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxelcc10004.htm>)
4. HIST10509 and HIST10510, running for the first time in 2023/24, will offer students an opportunity to study history in the host university in one or both semesters. They are part of a new suite of courses that replaced the 40 credit HCA10004. The 20 credit 'HIST10501 Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography' & 'HIST10502 Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research' give students the existing option of fulfilling the requirements for History by completing written work set and assessed by a member of the History Department. Students taking HIST10509 and HIST10510 will take courses at the host university that will be approved by the History Department. These students will receive credits on a pass/fail basis. This

is in line with the process already in place for all non-mandatory year abroad History students. Moreover, and as with LLC's 'ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B', credits for these courses will be awarded following assessment in the Final Year. The pass/fail requirement not only ensures consistency and efficiency in processing credits for those students, but also provides an incentive for students to develop their linguistic and historical skills without the marks awarded by their host universities distorting their overall degree classification.

### **Discussion**

5. Following consultation with colleagues in LLC, the course proposals were submitted to the HCA Board of Studies on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (see appendix 1: Course Proposal Forms). The board approved this proposals (see appendix 2: extract from the Board of Studies minutes).

The approval was passed to LLC who then updated the following Degree Programme Tables for 23/24: (see appendix 3: Example French and History Year 3 DPT).

- French and History (MA Hons)
- German and History (MA Hons)
- Italian and History (MA Hons)
- Russian Studies and History (MA Hons)
- Scandinavian Studies and History (MA Hons)
- Spanish and History (MA Hons)

NB: Arabic and History has a different arrangement so retained the original course and DPT structure, as an exception had already been granted for students on that degree to study courses abroad.

We were made aware that due the pass/fail nature of the 20 credit HIST10509 and HIST10510, the proposal requires formal approval by the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee. We are therefore requesting formal approval ahead of the coming academic year. Apologies that approval wasn't sought at an earlier point, unfortunately as such courses are very rare we weren't aware of this requirement. The courses have already been advertised to students who are expecting to be able to take advantage of the increased flexibility and opportunity on their compulsory year abroad so we hope the committee will support these proposals.

As outlined above, the courses allow students on this degree a greater amount of choice and flexibility. Year abroad students on a work placement or internship will still be able to fulfil the Third Year requirements for the History side of their degree in either semester by submitting work to History Department. This option is also available for exchange students who do not wish to take courses at their host university.

The pedagogical and intellectual value of these proposed changes are considerable. For the first time, students the opportunity of studying history in another language, thereby bringing together both aspects of their joint degree.

To summarize, students will receive a pass/fail mark for HIST10509 and HIST10510, and credit for these courses will be awarded following assessment in the Final Year. This is in line with LLC's ELCC10004. Pass/fail is also currently in place for non-mandatory year abroad students in HCA. . Marking HIST10509 and HIST10510 as pass/fail ensures efficient processing of credits for these courses, and avoids potential inconsistency between different marking schemes in the host universities.

**Resource implications**

6. This will reduce the workload burden within the subject area as fewer supervisors will be required within the History.

**Risk management**

7. N/A

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

8. N/A

**Equality & diversity**

9. Increased flexibility may open up the option to study a wider variety of subjects and perspectives.

**Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed**

10. The communication and implementation of the courses as approved by the Board of Studies has now been carried out. I follow up to confirm that formal approval has been granted.

**Author**

*School of History, Classics and Archeology.*

**Freedom of Information**

*Open*

## Appendix 1: Proposal forms submitted to the Board of Studies

### Converted Course Form

This form should only be used where a course is being converted from an existing course to provide another version i.e. online/campus or Hon/PG.

#### New Course details

NEW Course Name:	Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 1)		
Proposer:	Julius Ruiz		
Lecturer (if different):			Subject Area: History/MEL
Type (e.g. UG/PG, Online, Option/Elective, Special Subject): UG/Compulsory			

#### Existing Course details:

Course Name:	<a href="#">Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History</a>		
Course Code:	CHCA10004	Course type:	UG/Compulsory

#### Case for Support:

##### Case for Support (required)

A brief introduction to the academic rationale for this course, what it brings to the curriculum, how the course content connects to real world issues and what skills the students will gain.

At present MEL and History students are expected to take the online 40 credit year abroad CHCA 10004 course to fulfil the requirements of the History side of their degree while they are on exchange. HCA does not accept the credits of any History courses taken abroad, even if students want to study History with one important exception: those enrolled in Arabic and History who study at the American University in Cairo (<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxchca10004.htm>). This change to the DPT took place in the 2018/19 academic year on the request of Arabic. The current situation is therefore discriminatory, and prevents non-Arabic and History students from taking advantage of the opportunities of studying History abroad. The pedagogical advantages of taking History courses abroad is evident by the subsequent excellent performance of non-mandatory year abroad exchange students, who often outperform their peers who remain in Edinburgh. Furthermore, studying History abroad in a different language (rather than taking an English-based online HCA course), will improve the linguistic skills of MEL students. Too many compulsory year abroad exchange students decide not to use their foreign language on the CHCA 10004 course. It is also the case that MEL and Classics students have the option of studying courses abroad or writing two long essays of 5,000 words based on independent study.

The proposal is therefore based on increasing student choice. The current 40 Edinburgh credit CHCA 10004 will be split into two 20 credit online courses that parallel our existing compulsory historical skills and methods courses delivered to single honours History students in Edinburgh, Historical Skills and Methods I (HIST 10426 <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxhist10426.htm>) and Historical Skills and Methods II (HIST 10425 <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxhist10425.htm>).

MEL Year Abroad students would be pre-enrolled in these new courses (as is the case at the moment), but they would have the opportunity of opting out of one or both in favour of taking 10 or 20 ECTS credits (or equivalent) abroad. This would give year abroad students who have decided to do a single semester work placement the possibility of studying History abroad during their one semester university exchange. Students would continue to present their learning agreements to the relevant LLC and HCA coordinator, and this would indicate whether they had decided to 'opt out' of one or both of the HCA 20 credit courses, and instead be enrolled on one or both of the courses entitled 'Courses undertaken in host university'. If students decide to take courses abroad, the marks obtained will not contribute to their degree (i.e. the courses will be pass/fail only).

Changes:

- To replace the 40 credit course 'CHCA 10004: Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History' with four 20 credit courses. This is the form for the Semester 1 'Courses undertaken in host university'
- The new courses will allow students the option of using courses taken at the Visiting University to count towards the credits for this course on a pass/fail basis.

Current DPT:

**E.g. French and History (Year 3)**

Compulsory

40 credits: CHCA10004: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history

40 credits: ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B

20 credits: ELCF10078: Year abroad online language learning course – French

Options (20 credits from)

20 credits: ELCC10002: Modern European Languages Year Abroad Assessment

20 credits: ELCC10005: MEL dissertation preparation

Revised DPT:

**E.g. French and History (Year 3)**

Compulsory

40 credits: ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B

20 credits: ELCF10078: Year abroad online language learning course – French

Options (20 credits from)

20 credits: ELCC10002: Modern European Languages Year Abroad Assessment

20 credits: ELCC10005: MEL dissertation preparation

Compulsory (40 credits from)

20 credits:

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography (Semester 1)

or

NEW COURSE: 1. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 1)

AND

20 credits:

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research (Semester 2)

or

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 2)

**Course descriptor information:**

Please complete any sections where the information differs from the existing course. If the information remains the same as on Euclid, please leave blank.

Summary Description	During Semester 1 of the third year abroad while studying for these combined degrees, students will take pre-approved history courses where appropriate exchange is allowed/available
Course Description	Students on this course have chosen to take pre-approved history courses in their host university in place of the course: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography (Semester 1)
Graduate Attributes	
Reading List	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. read, analyse and reflect critically upon relevant scholarship;</li> <li>2. develop and sustain scholarly arguments in oral and written form, by formulating appropriate questions and utilising relevant evidence;</li> <li>3. demonstrate independence of mind and initiative; intellectual integrity and maturity; an ability to evaluate the work of others</li> </ol>
Assessment information	Assessment undertaken as part of the pre-approved history courses where appropriate exchange is allowed/available
Feedback	Feedback arrangements set by the host university
Is the course available to visiting students?	
Pre-requisites	
Co-requisites	
Prohibited Combinations	
Other requirements	
Visiting Student Pre-requisites	
Any costs to be met by the student?	

**NB: This course will be graded as Pass/Fail**

## Converted Course Form

**This form should only be used where a course is being converted from an existing course to provide another version i.e. online/campus or Hon/PG.**

### New Course details

NEW Course Name:	Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 2)		
Proposer:	Julius Ruiz		
Lecturer (if different):			Subject Area: History/MEL
Type (e.g. UG/PG, Online, Option/Elective, Special Subject):	UG/Compulsory		

### Existing Course details:

Course Name:	<a href="#">Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History</a>		
Course Code:	CHCA10004	Course type:	UG/Compulsory

### Case for Support:

#### Case for Support (required)

A brief introduction to the academic rationale for this course, what it brings to the curriculum, how the course content connects to real world issues and what skills the students will gain.

At present MEL and History students are expected to take the online 40 credit year abroad CHCA 10004 course to fulfil the requirements of the History side of their degree while they are on exchange. HCA does not accept the credits of any History courses taken abroad, even if students want to study History with one important exception: those enrolled in Arabic and History who study at the American University in Cairo (<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxchca10004.htm>). This change to the DPT took place in the 2018/19 academic year on the request of Arabic. The current situation is therefore discriminatory, and prevents non-Arabic and History students from taking advantage of the opportunities of studying History abroad. The pedagogical advantages of taking History courses abroad is evident by the subsequent excellent performance of non-mandatory year abroad exchange students, who often outperform their peers who remain in Edinburgh. Furthermore, studying History abroad in a different language (rather than taking an English-based online HCA course), will improve the linguistic skills of MEL students. Too many compulsory year abroad exchange students decide not to use their foreign language on the CHCA 10004 course. It is also the case that MEL and Classics students have the option of studying courses abroad or writing two long essays of 5,000 words based on independent study.

The proposal is therefore based on increasing student choice. The current 40 Edinburgh credit CHCA 10004 will be split into two 20 credit online courses that parallel our existing compulsory historical skills and

methods courses delivered to single honours History students in Edinburgh, Historical Skills and Methods I (HIST 10426 <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxhist10426.htm>) and Historical Skills and Methods II (HIST 10425 <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxhist10425.htm>).

MEL Year Abroad students would be pre-enrolled in these new courses (as is the case at the moment), but they would have the opportunity of opting out of one or both in favour of taking 10 or 20 ECTS credits (or equivalent) abroad. This would give year abroad students who have decided to do a single semester work placement the possibility of studying History abroad during their one semester university exchange. Students would continue to present their learning agreements to the relevant LLC and HCA coordinator, and this would indicate whether they had decided to 'opt out' of one or both of the HCA 20 credit courses, and instead be enrolled on one or both of the courses entitled 'Courses undertaken in host university'. If students decide to take courses abroad, the marks obtained will not contribute to their degree (i.e. the courses will be pass/fail only).

Changes:

- To replace the 40 credit course 'CHCA 10004: Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Languages and History' with four 20 credit courses. This is the form for the Semester 2 'Courses undertaken in host university'
- The new courses will allow students the option of using courses taken at the Visiting University to count towards the credits for this course on a pass/fail basis.

Current DPT:

**E.g. French and History (Year 3)**

Compulsory

40 credits: CHCA10004: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history

40 credits: ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B

20 credits: ELCF10078: Year abroad online language learning course – French

Options (20 credits from)

20 credits: ELCC10002: Modern European Languages Year Abroad Assessment

20 credits: ELCC10005: MEL dissertation preparation

Revised DPT:

**E.g. French and History (Year 3)**

Compulsory

40 credits: ELCC10004: Language acquisition through residence/study B

20 credits: ELCF10078: Year abroad online language learning course – French

Options (20 credits from)

20 credits: ELCC10002: Modern European Languages Year Abroad Assessment

20 credits: ELCC10005: MEL dissertation preparation

Compulsory (40 credits from)

20 credits:

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography (Semester 1)

or

NEW COURSE: 1. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 1)

AND

20 credits:

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research (Semester 2)

or

NEW COURSE: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 2)

**Course descriptor information:**

Please complete any sections where the information differs from the existing course. If the information remains the same as on Euclid, please leave blank.

Summary Description	During Semester 2 of the third year abroad while studying for these combined degrees, students will take pre-approved history courses where appropriate exchange is allowed/available
Course Description	Students on this course have chosen to take pre-approved history courses in their host university in place of the course: Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research (Semester 2)
Graduate Attributes	
Reading List	
Learning Outcomes	On completion of this course, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. read, analyse and reflect critically upon relevant scholarship;</li> <li>5. develop and sustain scholarly arguments in oral and written form, by formulating appropriate questions and utilising relevant evidence;</li> <li>6. demonstrate independence of mind and initiative; intellectual integrity and maturity; an ability to evaluate the work of others</li> </ul>
Assessment information	Assessment undertaken as part of the pre-approved history courses where appropriate exchange is allowed/available
Feedback	Feedback arrangements set by the host university
Is the course available to visiting students?	
Pre-requisites	
Co-requisites	
Prohibited Combinations	

Other requirements	
Visiting Student Pre-requisites	
Any costs to be met by the student?	

**NB: This course will be graded as Pass/Fail**

**Appendix 2: Extract from the Board of Studies 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

- xiii. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 1) (Julius Ruiz)**
- xiv. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university (Semester 2) (Julius Ruiz)**
- xv. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography (Julius Ruiz)**
- xvi. Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research (Julius Ruiz)**

J. Ruiz introduced these four proposals. PI (external member of the board) noted his approval of this proposed arrangement, which exists in his school as well, but he queried why these courses are pass/fail when many students who study abroad do so well that they appreciate their marks being translated to appear on their Edinburgh University transcript. J. Ruiz confirmed that the study abroad courses already existing for the other HCA students who study abroad are pass/fail, so this would be consistent with them. PI suggested that in a few years HCA ask our study abroad students for their thoughts on whether or not these courses should be pass/fail. These proposals were approved.

**ACTION: CQA team to create courses in Euclid**

**Appendix 3: Year 3 DPT for French and History****Year 3** Academic year: 2023/24, Starting in: August

## NOTES:

During 3rd year, when permitted, at least 30 weeks must be spent in the relevant country and prescribed work completed in History and the relevant language in an approved establishment. During sessions when this is not permitted students will be offered an alternative means of engagement.

## Final Assessment:

One unit of assessment is allocated to every 20 credits and constitutes one 20-credit paper. The following are the twelve 20-credit papers on which the classification of the degree is based.

1. French Language Paper 1 (10 credits from Language acquisition and 10 from Y4 LP1 course)
2. French Language Paper 2 (10 credits from Language acquisition and 10 from Y4 LP2 course)
3. Oral for French (taught and assessed in Y4)
4. French Online Language Course for Year Abroad Students
5. History YA work
6. History YA work
7. MEL Year Abroad work OR MEL Dissertation Preparation (see 8)
8. MEL Long Essay OR MEL Dissertation Completion (Papers 7 & 8 are a combined grade 10% from preparation and 90% from final dissertation preparation. Credits cannot be awarded for Dissertation preparation unless the full 2 year course is completed.)
9. French Hons option course
10. History option 1
11. History option 2
12. History option 3

## ***Compulsory courses***

You must take these courses

[Language acquisition through residence/study B](#)

ELCC1000440 credits

[Year Abroad online language learning course - French](#)

ELCF1007820 credits

## ***Course options***

### **DELC Year Abroad Options**

Select exactly 20 credits of the following courses

[Modern European Languages Year Abroad Assessment](#)

ELCC1000220 credits

[MEL dissertation preparation](#)

ELCC1000520 credits

**AND**

## **Group A**

Select exactly 40 credits in this group.

### **Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history - Semester 1**

Select exactly 20 credits of the following courses

[Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Historiography](#)

HIST1050120 credits

[Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university \(Semester 1\)](#)

HIST1050920 credits

**AND**

## Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history - Semester 2

Select exactly 20 credits of the following courses

[Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Research](#)

HIST1050220 credits

[Year abroad work for degrees in languages and history: Courses undertaken in host university  
\(Semester 2\)](#)

HIST1051020 credits