

## Guidelines for the Humanities Project

### Requirements

The Humanities Project is intended for those students who have a particular interest associated with one of the areas covered by the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) courses and have successfully completed a Level 5 course. The module consists of independent study, supervised by a nominated member of staff who will meet with the student on a regular basis to discuss progress. Where students have topics in common, students might meet in small group tutorials. The topic of the Humanities Project must be agreed with the supervisor and should be of sufficient scope and allow for appropriate depth of analysis for the student to meet the learning objectives.

Prospective candidates must supply a proposal that details the scope, the research questions and the timetable that sets clear goals for monitoring progress. For creative subjects like music technology and creative writing, the essay may include an element of practice (e.g. a composition or a chapter) in which case there should be an adjustment in the word count expected for the analytical component of the module.

A considerable amount of self-study is required for the Humanities Project and students should be aware that the time commitment required of them is at least equal to, if not exceeding, the commitment required for a taught option (approximately 125 hours of study in total). The Humanities Project is worth 5 ECTSs.

### Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate ability to formulate an initial research proposal, with input from nominated supervisor and field leader
- Examine key intellectual concepts across relevant disciplines by production of a list of relevant literature.
- Organise a research plan for discussion with supervisor.
- Integrate concepts using self-directed primary and secondary research.
- Conduct primary and secondary research using suitable methods agreed with supervisor.
- Complete a writing plan for agreement with supervisor.
- Apply key concepts, research, and feedback to write an analytical humanities project.

## Registering for the Humanities Project option

Before they enrol, students should contact the HSS Field Leader (Dr Michael Weatherburn) who will discuss with a potential supervisor the suitability of the candidate. The candidate and supervisor should then complete the Humanities Project proposal form outlining the scope of the essay, the research question(s) and a timetable that sets clear goals for monitoring the student's progress.

The proposal needs to be approved by the HSS Field Leader, and – if the student is taking the option for credit – the student's departmental personal tutor. **Proposals must be finalized before the end of September.** When these requirements have been satisfied, the student's online enrolment will be confirmed. Any enrolments through the online system are provisional until this takes place and no new enrolments will be accepted after the end of September.

## Supervision

The Humanities Project is largely self-study. It is up to the student and the supervisor to arrange meetings for feedback on the various stages of the essay and to check that good progress is being made. It is anticipated that contact will be mostly by e-mail but students and supervisors should meet face-to-face at least twice a term in the autumn and spring terms, more often if necessary, but not usually exceeding six meetings in total.

## Assessment

To be tailored to the subject but as a general guideline:

- Analytical essay: 5,000–7,000 words (90%) **OR** creative work submission of variable length (60%) accompanied by an analytical and critical essay of approximately 3,000–5,000 words (30%)
- Performance: The mark for performance is awarded by the supervisor and counts 10%. It is awarded on the student's interest and engagement with the project, the student's understanding of the research area at the end of the project, the student's ability to work with the supervisor in a professional and appropriate manner, the level of independent working the student achieved, and the overall effort of the student on the project. (10%)

The essay should be **5000 to 7000** words in length, not including the reference list. The latest deadline for submission is the **first week of the summer term** (exact date can be agreed between student and supervisor). A Humanities Project Blackboard portal will be available for submission. Essays should be in 1.5 spacing with wide margins. Pages should be numbered. It is imperative that students follow the guidelines for referencing given in the [HSS student handbook](#).

## Marking

The essay will be marked on Blackboard by the supervisor and an independent assessor. It will also be seen on Blackboard by an external examiner. Results will be released after the Centre for Languages, Culture & Communication exam board meeting (usually in June), whereupon the student can request feedback from the supervisor.

## Note to students

The Humanities Project option is only granted to those students who have a demonstrable commitment to the subject, and a proven track record in completing coursework on time and to a high standard. If you register for the Humanities Project you are expected to see it through, regardless of whether you are registered for degree credit or extra credit. You are also expected to cooperate with your supervisor and take on board feedback given throughout the process. Humanities Project that are undertaken in haste and without due commitment stand little chance of passing. However, completing the Humanities Project option will significantly enhance your CV as it shows you are capable of important study and personal skills. If you do decide to pursue this option, we hope you will enjoy it, and the Centre for will undertake to support you to the best of our ability.

Dr Michael Weatherburn (Michael.Weatherburn@imperial.ac.uk)

Field Leader: Humanities and Social Sciences