



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND LAW

JOINT HONOURS INVOLVING AN ARTS SUBJECT



Joint Honours programmes at Birmingham

A Joint Honours degree programme at Birmingham allows you to study your two favourite subjects in one. We offer a wide range of programme combinations and you will be part of a University that is respected both nationally and internationally for the quality of its teaching and research.

Our programmes

The following subject areas within the College of Arts and Law all take part in the Joint Honours scheme: African Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology and Ancient History, Classical Literature and Civilisation, English Literature, English Language, French, German, Hispanic Studies, History, History of Art, Italian, Music, Philosophy, Russian and Theology.

In addition, we have some partnerships with other subject areas outside of Arts and Law – in Political Science, International Relations, Mathematics and Sociology.

For any Joint Honours combinations not involving an Arts subject, please see the prospectus.

What is Joint Honours?

Each Joint Honours combination has been created as a result of collaboration between the two partner Departments, with one Department the designated 'home' Department for any given combination.

How does it work?

Every degree programme at the University is divided into 120 credits of study for each year of the programme. In the first year of a Joint Honours programme, you follow the same number of credits (60) in each subject, as you get to grips with the core elements of the discipline and find your feet at University. We recognise that students on Joint Honours programmes might come to favour one subject slightly more than another. To account for this, we have added more flexibility into the second and final years of our programmes. In these years, you have more options from which to choose and have the possibility of varying the credit weighting between the two parts of your programme, without having to change course. In the second year, you can stick with the 60–60 split between the two subjects or,

alternatively, most programmes will allow you to shift to an 80–40 credit weighting. If you do choose this option, you can either go back to 60–60 in the final year, maintain the same 80–40 split or, in some cases, reverse the major and the minor and go to a 40–80 weighting.

Is it twice as much work as a Single Honours programme?

The total overall workload (120 credits per year) for all of our degree programmes is the same, regardless of whether you are a Single Honours or Joint Honours student.

What about choice?

Each Department will construct their programme of study differently but, as a general rule, you can expect your options to widen as you move through the programme. In order to ensure that Joint Honours students have the necessary grounding in the fundamentals of the discipline, the first year may well contain a number of compulsory or core modules. In subsequent years you benefit from this, as you are versed in the methods and critical methodology of the discipline, to be able to tackle the more specialist and intellectually sophisticated modules of the second and final years.

'Studying two subjects to degree level not only provides you with specialist knowledge of two subject areas and lots of variety in your programme, but can also lead you to unearth fascinating connections that span both disciplines.'

DR EMMA TYLER, Joint Honours Academic Co-ordinator

How about assessment?

The method of assessment will again depend on the programme of study. Most Departments offer a mixture of end-of-year examination, essay or continuous assessment. In every case, the method of assessment chosen is designed to match the learning experience. In other words, the way you are assessed will be closely linked to the way in which you have been learning. Nearly all students on a Joint Honours programme will write a dissertation in the final year. Depending on the programme chosen, a number of options are available: a short dissertation in one subject area (20 credits); two short dissertations, one in each subject (20 credits each); or a longer dissertation in one subject area (40 credits). Some students will opt to write an interdisciplinary dissertation, spanning both parts of their programme.





I've picked an unusual combination, will I be on my own?

No. In any small group seminar or lecture there are likely to be students following a number of different programme combinations. For instance, a seminar within the History Department might contain students studying History and English, History and Political Science, History and African Studies, History and German and Single Honours History. In both Departments, you will be amongst like-minded individuals who share your passion for the subject.

What about pastoral arrangements? Will I fall between the two Departments?

Joint Honours students are allocated a personal tutor in their 'home' department, who they can talk to for academic advice or more general support. In the 'partner' department, there is a designated academic contact for every Joint Honours combination, who will liaise with personal tutors at regular intervals during the year.

How does the year abroad work?

You can apply to study abroad for a year in an approved university around the world. If you achieve a grade of 2:1 or above in your first year, then you will be invited to apply for a Year Abroad in your second year. If your application is successful, you will go abroad in your third year and return to us for your final year. Find out more at:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/yearabroad

For students taking one or two modern languages as part of their Joint Honours degree, the Year Abroad is compulsory. This can involve university, work or teaching placements in the target language. If you are not taking a language as part of your degree, it is possible to attend universities where all the modules offered will be taught in English. When you return, you go into the final year of the programme in both Departments. Many of our fourth-year students confirm that the year abroad was their favourite year at University.

What if I want to change course?

The overwhelming majority of our students are extremely happy with the course that they have chosen and we hope that the added flexibility in the second and final years of our Joint Honours combinations means students can change the weighting of their programme without the need for a change. Nevertheless, there are some legitimate reasons for wanting to change. For instance, we recognise that in opting for a Joint Honours programme, some students are choosing a subject that they have never had the chance to study before, that they then discover is not quite what they expected. Occasionally, students also prefer one-half of their combination to the other and want to change to a Single Honours programme. We do our best to accommodate requests to change courses.

'Being a Joint Honours student has meant that I've been able to be involved with two Departments at the University, this has given me the great opportunity to meet many academics and students, broadening my interest in many areas. The two subjects work well together and the variety of modules offered by each has meant that I have been able to choose those which work well together, creating a complete degree programme, which offers me depth and breadth.'

SAFIYYAH, BA Philosophy and English Literature

Entry requirements

Course combination	UCAS code	Typical offer
BA Anthropology and African Studies	LT65	BBB
BA Anthropology and Classical Literature and Civilisation	LQ68	ABB
BA Anthropology and History	LV61	ABB
BA Anthropology and Political Science	LL62	ABB
BA Archaeology and Ancient History and History	VV14	ABB
BA Classical Literature and Civilisation and Philosophy	QV85	ABB
BA English and Classical Literature and Civilisation	QQ3V	ABB
BA English and History	QV3C	AAB
BA English and History of Art	QV3H	ABB
BA English and Philosophy	QV3M	AAB
BA History and History of Art	VV13	ABB
BA History and Philosophy	VV15	AAB
BA History and Political Science	LV21	AAB
BA History and Theology	VV16	ABB
BA Mathematics and Music	GW13	AAB
BA Mathematics and Philosophy	GV15	AAB
BA Modern Languages and English	7Q6Q	AAB
BA Modern Languages and History	R9V1	AAB
BA Modern Languages and History of Art	5QV1	ABB
BA Modern Languages and Music	R752	AAB
BA Philosophy and Sociology	VL53	ABB
BA Political Science and Philosophy	VL52	AAB
BA Political Science and Philosophy with Year Abroad	LV25	AAB
BA Russian Studies and International Relations	RL72	AAB

Careers and employability

Our Joint Honours programmes produce high-quality graduates with highly developed skills in analysis, research, reasoning, time management and oral and written communication. This makes them highly eligible for careers throughout the public and private sector such as the civil service, finance, industry, marketing, media and teaching. It also equips them for postgraduate study in related disciplines. Our students are able to benefit from the support of our award-winning College of Arts and Law careers service, which they can access from the very beginning of their studies at Birmingham.



NEXT STEPS

How to apply

Apply through UCAS.

Offer-holder Visit Days

Following the application process, offer-holders will be invited to an Offer-holder Visit Day and are strongly encouraged to take this opportunity to visit the Departments and meet staff and students with whom they would be studying.



LEARN MORE

Email: study-jointhonours@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Full details on all courses with year-by-year breakdown can be found at:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/joint

[artsatbham](https://www.instagram.com/artsatbham)

This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study, some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note, the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication, but may be subject to change (June 2019).

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'I have just started a full-time job with "Swets", a content information services company who supply periodicals, journals etc, to institutions such as UoB. I speak German to German-based publishers all day and sort out queries with their subscriptions.'

BECKY, BA Modern Languages and English Literature, graduate



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