

Programme Specification

Foundation Year Liberal Arts

<i>School:</i>	School of Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Liberal Arts
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2022-23
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Foundation Certificate Liberal Arts
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time for 4 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	Not applicable
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The Foundation Year in Liberal Arts at York St John University will provide you with an interdisciplinary introduction to the questions and approaches that have shaped both teaching and scholarship across a range of subjects, including: the humanities, social sciences, and English language and linguistics.

This course has been designed as an alternative entry route into a range of undergraduate programmes for prospective students who may not wish to or be able to start their University journey at Level 4. For instance, you may be a mature student who has been out of education for a while, you may not have the entry requirements for the degree programme of your choice or you may just want a supported step into university-level study to move into your degree programme. The Foundation Year exists within York St John University as part of an extended four-year undergraduate programme, facilitating access for Foundation students at Level 3. It has been designed with the specific goals of widening participation and building student confidence.

All students, regardless of your chosen programme, will undertake a series of thematic modules exploring different aspects of the Liberal Arts as well as an independent project module that will allow you to focus on your specific subject interests. Exploring universal topics across these modules will enable you to develop the knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes necessary for subsequent study. Our priority is to foster your intellectual curiosity, training you to evaluate different ways of understanding and interpreting the world, whilst also encouraging you to search for new ways and approaches to acquire knowledge and advance your thinking. We will ensure not just that you learn, but that you learn how to learn, whether on your own or in formal study. You will be offered opportunities to reflect on your entry skills and engage in identifying your own areas for development, enhancing your confidence in written and oral communication and processing information. We will cultivate your study skills and IT abilities whilst also building your cultural

literacy, global awareness and civic values, ensuring that you can acquire all the new skills and experience necessary to thrive during undergraduate study.

Admissions criteria

This programme adheres to the University's general entry criteria for undergraduate study. Any specific entry attainment will be made available to you through the University website and reviewed on a regular basis.

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you should typically have:

- English Language GCSE at grade C, or equivalent level 2 award
- A relevant level 3 qualification or two A2 levels (for this course the standard entry level is DD at A Level or equivalent – 48 points on the UCAS tariff)

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

To prepare students for entry into Higher Education, by providing them with the opportunity to experience a wide range of skills and subject areas in the humanities, religion, philosophy, social sciences, education, languages and linguistics.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 3

- 3.1 Identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems and complete tasks.
- 3.2 Demonstrate an ability to communicate critical information in a variety of forms.
- 3.3 Demonstrate a factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of concepts applicable to the study of the subject areas included within the Foundation Year's progression routes.
- 3.4 Demonstrate an awareness of different perspectives and approaches within the study of subject areas included within the Foundation Year's progression routes.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
LIB3001M	3	1	Eboracum: York, Space and Place	20	C	X
LIB3007M	3	1	Identity and 'Otherness': The Self and Society	20	C	X
LIB3008M	3	1	Truth and Invention: Culture, Myth and Representation	20	C	X
LIB3004M	3	2	Freedom and Justice	20	C	X
LIB3005M	3	2	Imagining the Future: Environment, Apocalypse and the Digital Revolution	20	C	X
LIB3006M	3	2	Independent Project	20	C	X

Learning, teaching and assessment

The Foundation Year in Liberal Arts provides a safe and stimulating environment in which you can first encounter those key questions and challenges that will later inform your further study.

The Liberal Arts explore fundamental questions about human nature and existence: What is being? What is truth? What is virtue? What is knowledge? What is good and what is bad? Formal study of the Liberal Arts in higher education is commonly traced back to the structured, systematic study of a body of knowledge as promoted by classical philosophers such as Aristotle, Plato and Socrates. Beyond offering a basis for centuries of metaphysical inquiry, the 'liberal' arts were made up of subjects considered essential pre-requisites for citizens intending to take an active part of civic life. By the eighteenth century the Liberal Arts were recognised as performing a vital social and political function, ensuring that civilians were well instructed in their laws, rights and liberties. On this programme we will build upon this historic foundation to bring the study of the Liberal Arts into the present day, offering you a robust and dynamic introduction to the core ideas and approaches characterising the study of the various subject areas included within our progression routes.

In addition to building your understanding and awareness of key concepts and study skills, this programme is designed to build your confidence and welcome you to the diverse and inclusive community that we enjoy at York St John University. We will make sure that you are fully aware of the resources and opportunities available to you, whilst also introducing you to York, a city steeped in rich history and culture.

As you progress through the course you will take six modules, building your knowledge and skills across the year. The thematic nature of each module allows for a wide range of staff from across the University to deliver these classes, giving you direct access to lecturers and researchers from many different disciplines within the university. You will be offered an unprecedented insight into ground-breaking research taking place at York St John University and invited to participate in discussions which have local, national and global scholarly implications.

Different staff will also introduce you to different pedagogical approaches and teaching formats. For example, over the course of the programme you will experience lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops, as well as other group activities such as visits to relevant places of interest. You will be encouraged to actively participate in the teaching and learning sessions and develop your confidence through activities such as group discussion and presentations.

Though you will encounter many different tutors from week to week, you will remain in constant contact with your Course Team, who will deliver a substantial share of your teaching. Additionally, a member of academic staff from your elected destination programme will be assigned as your Progression Tutor. You

can meet with them regularly for support and advice and, as the course draws to a close, they will offer you discipline-specific guidance before your undergraduate journey continues.

Today's graduates are confronted with an unprecedented set of contests and questions, faced with an economy where traditional jobs are shrinking and changing faster than ever before and a world that challenges traditional values around social justice, environmental responsibility and cultural entitlement. We will provide you with the space to confront these realities by embracing change and innovation whilst recognising and rehearsing the traditions and values upon which the Liberal Arts are founded. By the end of the course you will be well-equipped to get the most out of your undergraduate degree, ensuring you can become an engaged global citizen, an effective researcher and a persuasive critical thinker.

Assessment

To give you an introduction to the various forms of assessment used at York St John University and ensure that you are best equipped to get the most from tutor feedback, this course is committed to embedding formative assessment as a fundamental component of learning and teaching. These activities, which will not result in a grade, allow us to monitor your learning and provide ongoing feedback. Each summative assessment point will take the form of a portfolio made up of a range of different components indicative of the different assessment forms you will encounter during further study. Portfolio components will be prepared in draft throughout the module, avoiding the time and workload pressures associated with end-loaded assessment strategies. Portfolios may include the following components: literature review; annotated bibliography; annotated map; abstract; research reflection; self-reflection; reflective analysis; short responses to critical resources; short critical essay; creative artefacts; blogs/vlogs/podcasts; academic poster; independent project.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 4.6.21

Programme originally approved: 16/08/17